

Queen Mum is not dead: BBC apologises

LONDON (AFP) — The BBC apologized to Buckingham Palace after it reported that Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, had died late morning. A BBC news flash appeared on the air. The text of the news flash stated: "The Queen Mother, 96, died of a heart attack at her home in London." The BBC later issued a correction, stating that the Queen Mother was still alive. The error was caused by a mix-up between two different news items. The Queen Mother, who was 96, had been in poor health for some time. She was hospitalized in London last week. The BBC's error was a significant one, as it caused confusion and distress among many people who were concerned about the Queen Mother's health.

Da Vinci manuscript sold for \$30.8m

NEW YORK — A manuscript of Leonardo da Vinci's "The Last Supper" was sold for \$30.8 million at a Sotheby's auction. The manuscript, which is a copy of the original, was one of the most expensive items ever sold at auction. It was a drawing of the Last Supper, which is a famous religious painting by Leonardo da Vinci. The drawing was made in the 16th century and is considered to be one of the most important works of art in the world. The sale of the manuscript was a major event in the art world, and it attracted a large number of bidders. The final bid was made by a Japanese collector, who paid the record price of \$30.8 million for the drawing.

Japan's great Buddha defaced in graffiti attack

OSAKA — A large Buddha statue in Japan was defaced with graffiti. The statue, which is a famous landmark in the city, was found with graffiti written on it. The graffiti was written in a way that was disrespectful to the statue and to the religion of Buddhism. The Japanese government has expressed its concern about the defacement of the statue and has asked the police to investigate the matter. The police have not yet identified the person or group responsible for the graffiti. The defacement of the statue is a serious offense in Japan, and it is considered to be a major insult to the Japanese people and to their culture.

Oregon measure on suicide passes

PORTLAND, Ore. — A measure to help people with mental health problems passed in Oregon. The measure, which is known as the "Mental Health Parity Act," requires that insurance companies cover mental health services in the same way that they cover physical health services. This means that people with mental health problems will be able to get the same level of care and coverage as people with physical health problems. The measure is a significant step forward in the fight against mental health stigma, and it is expected to help many people who are struggling with mental health problems. The measure was passed by a large margin, and it is now being implemented.

PLO officials oppose Gaza meeting

TUNIS (AFP) — Several members of the Palestine Liberation Executive Committee on Sunday opposed a plan for the body to meet for the first time in autonomous Gaza, as announced by the organization's leader Yasser Arafat. The PLO's political department chief Farouk Kaddoumi, said such a meeting would be "premature" so long as the Israeli army has not withdrawn from all of Palestinian territory. Mr. Arafat announced Saturday that his 18-member Executive Committee was to meet Tuesday in Gaza City. Six officials resigned or froze their membership because of their opposition to the autonomy deal with Israel. Mr. Kaddoumi and another committee member, Mahmoud Abbas, are not expected to attend the Gaza session, according to a Palestinian source in Tunis. Both men have stayed on in the Tunisian capital, where the Executive Committee held its last meeting in September 1993, rather than move to Gaza. Mr. Kaddoumi, who left on Sunday for a visit to Pakistan, opposes the PLO's autonomy accord. Mr. Abbas signed the September 1993 accord with Israel. In Amman, another four Executive Committee members said Sunday that they would also stay away from the Gaza City meeting.

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Spain's King Juan Carlos addresses the Jordanian Parliament on Sunday in a session attended by His Majesty King Hussein (Photo by Yousef 'Allan')

King Juan Carlos pledges continued backing for Jordan

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — King Juan Carlos of Spain on Sunday pledged his country's support for the Kingdom in utilizing the opportunities that peace in the area will avail and reiterated Spain's commitment to helping achieve a just and lasting peace in the region.

In an address to a joint session of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament, the Spanish monarch also emphasized the "historic" Jordanian-Spanish relations which he said his country is determined to promote. "I would like to... solemnly express my country's commitment to this House not only to continue to help to achieve a just and lasting peace... but also to participate... in the tasks of reconstruction and development that are beginning in this region and in this country," King Juan Carlos said at the session, which was attended by His Majesty King Hussein, Her Majesty Queen Noor, Queen Sofia, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and other officials.

"Your challenge is our challenge, and your peace is our peace," said the Spanish monarch, the first European and second world leader to address the Jordanian Parliament.

King Juan Carlos, who ended a three-day official visit

to the Kingdom later Sunday, said that Spain will take initiatives aimed at renewing the European economic and political commitment to the Kingdom when it assumes the presidency of the European Union (EU) in 1995.

He said a conference of European and Mediterranean countries that would include Jordan could be held in that period.

The Spanish monarch paid tribute to the role played by King Hussein in seeking a just and lasting peace in the region and congratulated the Kingdom on signing the peace agreement which he described as a "decisive success."

See page 7 for full text of King Juan Carlos' and Senate Speaker Ahmad Lawzi's speeches

Saying that the peace process has a global dimension, the Spanish monarch said the support and solidarity of the international community has been an "essential ingredient" of the process since it started in Madrid in 1991.

"Peace is not an end in itself," said the Spanish monarch. "It is essential that it has a human component" and people must feel its dividends.

The Spanish monarch, who arrived here Friday, recognized the Jordanian role in providing an umbrella for the Palestinian delegation to the peace conference in Madrid.

"The solidarity and cooperation between Jordanians

and Palestinians will make it possible to provide an adequate response to the many challenges that are still pending along the way to a definitive peace in the region," the Spanish monarch said.

"In these Houses... I know that there are different opinions concerning important matters in your daily course of work. But I also know that with regard to the most basic issues there is a strong resolve to strengthen together a national reality and a society proud of its origins," King Juan Carlos told parliamentarians.

The Spanish monarch praised the democratic march in the Kingdom which he said

has "provided an admirable model for coexistence and understanding that has not gone unnoticed in the international community and is the cornerstone of the credit and trust enjoyed by the Jordanian nation in the world today."

Welcoming the Spanish monarch to Parliament, Speaker of the Upper House Ahmad Al Lawzi, who presided over the session, praised the strong ties that have existed between the Kingdom and Spain and expressed appreciation for the support Madrid has extended to the Arab World in its

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Spanish royal couple concludes state visit

AMMAN (J.T.) — King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia of Spain Sunday concluded a three-day state visit to Jordan and headed for Amman where they are expected to attend celebrations on Monday marking the birthday of His Majesty King Hussein.

An official farewell ceremony was held at Amman airport and attended by Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor, Their Royal Highnesses Prince Mohammad, Princess Taghreed, Crown Prince Hassan, Princess Sarvath, Princess Basma, Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, Princess Rania Al Abdullah, Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein, Princess Alia Al Faisal, Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid and other members of the Royal family.

Also present to bid farewell to the Spanish royal couple were Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, the King's advisors and senior officials.

During the visit King Juan Carlos held meetings with King Hussein on Middle East and bilateral affairs. The Spanish monarch addressed the Jordanian Parliament and paid visits to the Dead Sea and archaeological sites as well as the Spanish Cultural Centre in Amman.

King Juan Carlos was the guest of honour at a breakfast hosted by Crown Prince Hassan at the Royal Court on Sunday. The Spanish delegation accompanying King Juan Carlos attended the breakfast along with a group of Jordanian officials and Jordanian and Spanish businessmen.

Addressing the audience, Prince Hassan lauded the historic and unique relations between Jordan and Spain.

The Spanish monarch's visit, Prince Hassan said, provided a good chance for the two sides to explore prospects for cooperation in new fields.

Dr. Ahmad Mango, the Crown Prince's economic advisor, outlined the Kingdom's prospects and areas of investment in the Kingdom, noting the projects which Jordan submitted to the Casablanca economic conference. He also talked about the economic conference due to be held in Amman in the first half of next year.

King Juan Carlos told the audience that peace would bring in many advantages to the peoples of the Middle East, noting that Jordan was set to play a key role in regional development.

Through regional cooperation

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Jordan celebrates King's birthday

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan today celebrates His Majesty King Hussein's 59th birthday.

The King was brought up under the care of the late King Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, his grandfather and founder of the Kingdom, and his parents, the late King Talal and late Queen Zein.

The King received his elementary education at the Islamic Scientific College in Amman before moving to Alexandria in Egypt and later to Harrow and the Sandhurst Royal Military Academy in England to pursue higher and military education.

The King acceded to the Throne on Aug. 11, 1953 under a regency council.

On May 2, 1953 when the King turned 18, he assumed his constitutional powers and started Jordan's building and development march.

King Hussein has become a symbol of national unity in Jordan, where

Jordanians of Palestinian origin account for almost half of the population.

"While celebrating the King's birthday, the Jordanian people recall the King's untiring efforts and sacrifices to build modern Jordan and defend Arab causes," the Jordanian News Agency, Petra said.

The Kingdom's celebrations come a few days after Jordan endorsed a peace treaty with Israel, putting an end to 46 years of hostility and enmity between the two peoples.

"The King's role in reaching this treaty was lauded by the Jordanian people, who see that the King's wisdom and vast political experience have enabled him to fight the battle of peace with the same determination, resolve and courage by which he fought the battle for survival, challenge and steadfastness in the face of threats to Jordan's and the



(Continued on page 3)

Democracy, social justice, balanced development crucial to sustain peace

Roundtable on human dimension of peace process highlights pressing needs, recommends a special centre

By Cathy King
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Democracy, social justice and balanced development in the Middle East are crucial to sustain peace in the region, and the international community should take active part in ensuring that the peace process addresses the needs and expectations of the people.

This was the key finding and recommendation of a two-day roundtable on "The Human Dimension of the Middle East Peace Process" that concluded in Amman on Sunday.

The conference, attended by renowned international experts on the Middle East, also recommended that a "regional human resource development centre" be set up to ensure that "human needs are given priority in development efforts."

A document summing up the conclusion of the gathering, organized by the Institute of Diplomacy, said the

initiatives taken by Jordan, the Palestinians and Israel to make peace "may provide the threshold of a new life and pave the way for lasting and fair peace, for democracy, social justice and balanced development in the whole region."

The document, presented by former Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit, called for "effective popular participation and contributions of non-governmental organizations and humanitarian organizations are essential for ensuring that the peace process addresses the need and expectations of the people."

It called for urgent relief for the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza "in order to ensure that democracy and free elections do not play into the hands of the adversaries of the peace process who thrive on people's deprivations and sufferings."

It underlined the need for "substantial development assistance with equitable dis-

tribution from international organizations under the guidance of the United Nations" and said the contributions of the public and private sectors are an urgent necessity to avoiding such a prospect and for ensuring the entrenchment of peace.

Held in the presence of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the concluding session highlighted the observations, ideas and suggestions that evolved from the conference.

The concluding document stated that preservation of a lasting and fair peace could be better guaranteed by the participation of all peoples; the expansion of democracy including the ensurance of free and democratic elections for the Palestinians in the occupied territories, social justice and balanced development in the whole region; and that security in the Middle East should be sought by the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction, the balanced reduction of

conventional armaments and the resolution of international problems through peaceful means.

The final day of the roundtable began with three separate group meetings to discuss themes of human and legal rights, social and economic development and population, demography and refugees.

Despite different angles of approach each group saw the urgent need to address the issue at grassroots.

Particular emphasis was placed on the role of Palestinian people, the majority of whom, along with the impoverished, represent the most vulnerable sectors of society in the transition to peace.

In continuation of Saturday's presentations, areas highlighted Sunday included access to education for all and particularly for women; the contribution of NGOs, in all these fields and income

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Arafat welcomes Jordan's pledge

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat welcomed on Sunday a pledge by Jordan to hand over control of Muslim sites in Jerusalem to the Palestinians.

The reaction came amid signs of improved relations between Jordan and the Palestinians who had been angered by Israel's recognition of the Hashemite family's custodianship of the sites.

"The King's position embodies the strength of Palestinian-Jordanian relations," Mr. Arafat's spokesman Nabil Abu Rudeineh said.

"This positive stand backs the historic ties between the two peoples," he said. The Palestinians looked forward to benefiting from "special relations" with Jordan.

King Hussein on Saturday said Jordan would "continue administering the sites until the Palestinian people and their representatives recover sovereignty over their land."

The Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty signed on Oct. 26 recognised Jordan's historic role in administering East Jerusalem's Islamic holy sites.



ARAB BANK

Presents its best wishes to
His Majesty King Hussein
on his birthday

Israel handing over civil powers on W. Bank

HEBRON, Occupied West Bank (AFP) — Israel began handing over civil powers in the West Bank to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) on Sunday, starting with the social welfare department in Hebron and Bethlehem.

Palestinian Deputy Minister of Social Affairs Thibab Ayyush was shown round the offices managed by the Israeli military administration which has run the lives of West Bankers for the last 26 years.

Senior army officers shook hands with Mr. Ayyush in Hebron and Palestinian dignitaries and the green, red, white and black Palestinian flag was raised over the building.

"We will continue to support families in need and pay to help former Palestinian prisoners resume a normal life," Mr. Ayyush said after signing to take over the facilities.

"This is the start for Palestinians to take charge on the West Bank."

Mr. Ayyush went on to the social welfare department in nearby Bethlehem ahead of the official handover of all

six West Bank welfare offices by Tuesday.

The Palestinians inherit 10,000 needy families in the territories and a monthly bill of \$700,000. Mr. Ayyush said.

He told AFP last week that the 200 Palestinian employees of the Israeli military administration's social department on the West Bank would go on the authority's pay roll.

In the Gaza Strip, the ministry had spent \$1.6 million in the last three months aiding 10,000 more poor families, he said.

Mahmud Mteir, the ministry's director of finances, said the World Bank had paid \$500,000 for Gaza's October social welfare budget.

The Welfare Ministry was also responsible for families of "martyrs" and of prisoners in Israeli jails, but had no money to pay an estimated \$1.25 million a month to help them," Mr. Mteir said.

The World Bank had "categorically refused" to fund that aid, and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) had been unable to

pay it since the 1991 Gulf war when Gulf countries slashed assistance to the Palestinians.

Following talks with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat on Tuesday, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin announced that Israel would devolve power for health, taxation, social welfare and tourism on the West Bank by the end of the month.

Israel had held up the transfer of power, demanding that the Palestinians first raise the money to operate the services. Mr. Rabin said the money was now coming on stream.

The departments of social affairs and tourism would be fully handed over by Tuesday, Mr. Rabin said.

Since autonomy was launched in Gaza and Jericho last May, the Palestinians have been given charge only of education on the West Bank.

Israeli-PLO negotiations on the redeployment of troops outside built-up Palestinian areas on the West Bank and on elections to a self-rule council — the next stage of autonomy — are to start Nov. 21.

In Bethlehem, Palestinian Tourism Minister Elias Freij said the Israelis refused to hand over several West Bank tourist spots, including Qumran, an ancient site where the Dead Sea scrolls were found.

Herodion, a hill-top place complex near Bethlehem built by Herod the Great between 24 and 15 BC, would also remain under Israeli control, Mr. Freij told AFP.

The West Bank tourism department in Bethlehem has four Palestinian employees who would now go on the authority's payroll.

"Investors have not come forward with projects so far," he said, adding Israel would not allow the Palestinians to open new hotels.

"There are only 350 hotel rooms on the West Bank," he complained.

According to Israel, about one million tourists and Christian pilgrims visit Bethlehem each year, while about 400,000 tourists also go to the Jordan Valley-Jericho area.

A tourist office in Jericho was handed over to the Palestinians last May when autonomy was launched.

IOM sees need for accords on movement of people

Jordan could be 'regional spokesperson,' says head of international organisation

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — With peace being restored to the Middle East, the governments of the region have to work out agreements and mechanisms to regulate and control the movements of people as part of developmental efforts, says the head of the most experienced world organisation in migration.

At the same time, no organisation in the world could come up with any "magic solution" to the problem of the nearly four million Palestinian refugees stuck in various Arab countries in the region, says James N. Purcell, director-general of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM).

Solutions to the problem of Palestinian refugees and displaced persons are the purview of the concerned governments, and international organisations such as the Geneva-based IOM, could help implement solutions, as and when they are reached, in close coordination and agreement with the authorities, Mr. Purcell said in an interview with the Jordan Times.

The inter-governmental IOM will work within the framework of the declaration of principles signed by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel in September 1993, Mr. Purcell said.

In practical terms, this would mean IOM stepping with advice and arrangements for the physical movement of Palestinian refugees and displaced persons from their present places of residence to their homeland if and when Israel and the PLO as well as other countries involved reach political

agreements to solve the problem.

One of the considerations that the IOM would apply at that stage, Mr. Purcell said, is the suitability of the infrastructure of the receiving area to the presence of a large number of people.

Although Mr. Purcell did not spell it out, the inference was clear: The IOM, which was requested by the PLO, with the agreement of Israel, to move thousands of family members of Palestinian policemen to the Gaza Strip and Jericho when autonomy was launched in May, found that there was not enough housing in the autonomous territories to accommodate the new arrivals. As such, the movement was suspended.

"We've had far too much experience in other parts of the world" not to bring about a repetition of the situation, Mr. Purcell said. He noted that bilateral and multilateral efforts were under way to address the infrastructure needs of the autonomous territories.

In the broader context of the need for the governments to reach agreements to regulate and control people's movements in the advent of peace, Mr. Purcell said: "We will not impose anything on any party, but stand ready to help when the concerned governments and parties reach agreements."

One of the important aspects in a state of peace in the Middle East, he said, is the "unimpeded movement of labour, capital and people" and the governments have to reach agreements among themselves on how to organise this in a manner compatible with the universal principles of "the freedom to stay and freedom to leave."

Discouraging escape migration and encouraging constructive migration" should be the pillars of the policy of the governments in this context, said Mr. Purcell, speaking on the fringes of the two-day roundtable on "The Human Dimension of the Middle East Peace Process."

In international parlance, "escape migration" is defined as the movement of people prompted by simple economic consideration while "constructive migration" is that of people who could contribute positively to the new society into which they are moving.

The concept of protecting these rights is enshrined in the final "plan of action" adopted by the Cairo conference on world population held in September.

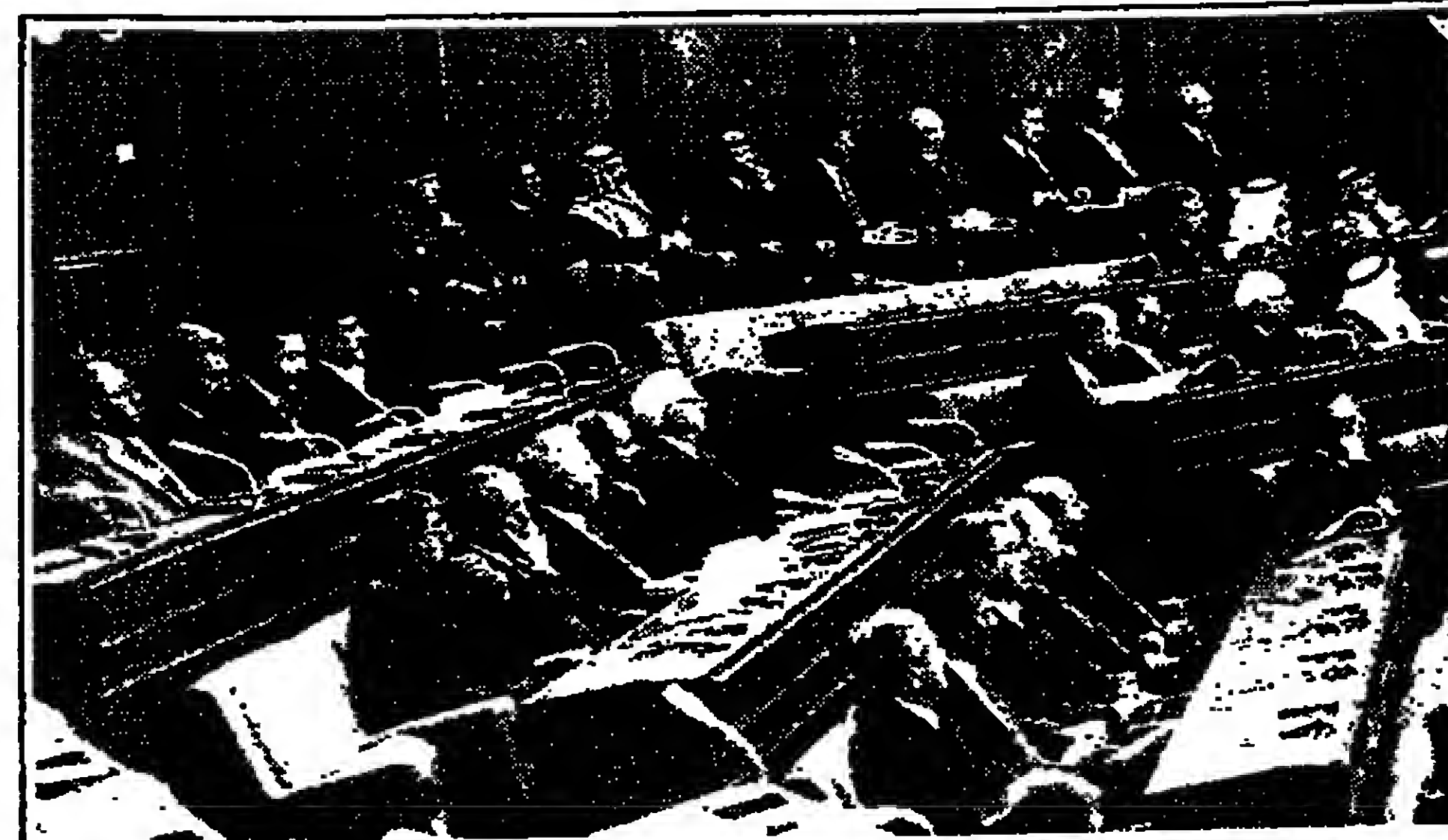
Mr. Purcell said the IOM sees Jordan, which is now an observer in the organisation, as a major government leader in the region and would welcome the Kingdom as a full-fledged member.

In fact, he said, Jordan's role in the region warranted that it become an active member of the organisation and become a "regional spokesperson."

One of the preconditions to joining the organisation as a member is an undertaking to respect the very concept of freedom of movement of people as enshrined in international conventions.

"There is no doubt that Jordan is in full compliance with this requirement already," said Mr. Purcell. The other condition is payment of a subscription based on an "assessment" that the IOM would make.

"It is for Jordan to make a decision in this regard, to see what it will gain from membership in the IOM," Mr. Purcell said.



JOINT SESSION: Members of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament on Sunday attend a joint session which was addressed by King

Somali leaders agree to help U.N. withdrawal

MOGADISHU (AFP) — Clan leaders supporting warlord General Mohamed Farrah Aidid pledged here on Sunday to cooperate during the U.N. pullout from Somalia and appealed to countries of the region to help ensure an orderly withdrawal.

A memorandum signed in Mogadishu on Sunday by leaders of the 13 political factions attending the National Reconciliation Conference convened there by General Aidid said Somali leaders would fully cooperate with the request of the U.N. Security Council mission which recently visited Somalia.

The mission had told Somali leaders that the presence of the U.N. Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) would not go beyond March 1995 and that Somali political leaders should cooperate in creating the security conditions that would facilitate an orderly and progressive phasing out of the military component of UNOSOM in advance of March 1995.

"We have since then established a task force with the specific mission to create and enforce the security conditions necessary to enable the military component of UNOSOM to depart from the country in an orderly and safe manner," the memorandum quoted the leaders as saying.

The memorandum said that included in the task force was a component responsible for enlightening the general public through the mass media to cooperate effectively with terms of the U.N. withdrawal.

But the Somali leaders expressed regret and alarm at reports indicating "hysteria and polemics at certain international quarters advocating some thousands of additional troops to be sent to Somalia to help in the departure of the UNOSOM forces."

The leaders warned that this could open and unending progression of troops in and out of Somalia and cause unnecessary tension and distrust, "thereby undermining our efforts to forestall unnecessary response to an uncalculated intrusion into our land."

Consequently, the leaders appealed to Horn of Africa countries to become more engaged in the process of UNOSOM withdrawal from Somalia and proposed that a commission composed of the Horn of Africa nations be created under U.N. Security Council and Organisation of African Unity auspices to monitor the effective cooperation of all sides with the orderly withdrawal of UNOSOM.

Some 15,000 U.N. peacekeeping forces remain in Somalia, but analysts here

are sceptical that Gen. Aidid's Somali National Alliance (SNA) factions would have enough military strength to curtail any possible attack by armed Somalis on UNOSOM forces during their final phase of withdrawal from Mogadishu.

UNICEF appeal

Humanitarian agencies will meet later this week in Geneva to discuss continued assistance to Somalia after the withdrawal of United Nations troops between now and March 31, a U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) official said here Saturday.

UNICEF delegate to Somalia Pierce Gerety said representatives from U.N. specialised agencies, non-governmental organisations and donor countries will meet Nov. 16 and 17.

"We have to arrange our programmes in order to provide basic services to women and children," he stressed. "Our role is to make sure that the necessary life-saving services are made available to children," even if there is no immediate risk of famine.

An internal United Nations document distributed Saturday to relief agencies in Mogadishu disclosed that Indian U.N. troops are to pull out of Baidoa in central Somalia and Kismayu in the south by the end of November.

Iraq's recognition of Kuwait may mean little to Security Council

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — Though Iraq demanded with international demands to recognise Kuwait last week, the action may make little difference when the U.N. Security Council discusses lifting sanctions against Baghdad, diplomats said.

Security Council members will gather Monday for their regular bi-monthly meeting to review the status of sanctions against Iraq imposed in August 1990 after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

The group discusses a partial or full lifting of the sanctions, including a cutoff of Iraq's oil exports that have left the nation financially crippled.

Iraq faces continued pressure from the United States and Britain, which have lobbied against an immediate easing of the restrictions each time the sessions convene.

Prior to Monday's session, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Madeleine Albright is expected to meet with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz, Mr. Albright is acting head of the Security Council.

Mr. Aziz is supposed to hand over Iraqi documents acknowledging the official recognition of Kuwait during the meeting, following up on Iraq's announcement Thursday of its compliance with the U.N. recognition demand.

The international community had demanded the recognition of Kuwait's independence and borders, and regarded it, as well as disarmament procedures, as keys to reestablishing Iraq's reintegration into international relations and trade.

But Iraq's attempts — under the aegis of Russia — to seek a U.N. declaration acknowledging its Kuwait initiative as a "historic event" could prove little more than a futile effort, diplomatic sources said.

Several nations, among them Russia, France, China and Spain, support council action to lift the oil embargo — at least partially — after a six-month delay.

Sponsors say the six-month period will allow time to test a long-term mechanism for controlling Iraq's military capabilities.

But the council will probably just end up automatically renewing the sanctions, said one diplomatic source, without modifying them or agreeing on some formula to evaluate Iraq's response to U.N. orders.

After that, the council might separately adopt a declaration supporting Iraq's recognition of Kuwait and encouraging Baghdad to comply with all the other U.N. demands.

"The Russians should end

up agreeing to this formula, because there has been a veritable battle to force the United States and Britain to accept the idea of a presidential declaration," a Western diplomat said.

"Washington and London would like a simple letter from the Security Council to the Iraqi government," the diplomat added.

Unlike council resolutions, which are subject to a vote and require nine supporting votes and no vetoes by the 15-state council, declarations are developed by consensus and thus represent the lowest common denominator of all the countries' positions.

Countries that support easing the sanctions are concerned the council action will not be an appropriate response to Iraq's initiative and that a poor U.N. response risks weakening the position of those in Iraq's government who support working with the United Nations.

But pro-Iraq nations also realise that Iraqi troop movements toward Kuwait last month undercut their arguments supporting Iraq.

"The Americans are in a strong position. The troop movements had a direct effect. If it had not been for that, the French and the Russians could have pressed harder," said one council member.

Republican landslide raises Israeli fear

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Republican landslide in the United States has awakened fears in Israel that the administration will disengage from the Middle East peace process and that unprecedented American support will weaken.

Israel has traditionally enjoyed stronger backing in Congress than the White House but now finds itself for the first time in the opposite position following last week's elections.

"The Republican victory may put a brake on the peace process and above all the Israeli-Syrian negotiations," warned Middle East specialist Dore Gold, of Tel Aviv's Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies.

"Peace in the Middle East is not just for Israel, it's also for the U.S. dollars for peace. American aid may stagnate and even be slashed under Republican pressure."

He recalled that U.S. aid financed the 1975 military separation accord between Israel and Egypt as well as the 1979 peace treaty between the old foes.

"The Republican victory may also strengthen Syria in negotiations with Israel in the expectation of a Republican president in 1996 elections who would be less pro-Israel than Bill Clinton," Mr. Gold added.

Ultra-conservative Republican Senator Jesse Helms has threatened to slash foreign aid when he takes over the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in January.

He hit out at the aid programme of "an estimated \$3 trillion of the American taxpayers' money, much of it going down foreign rat holes."

"Republicans are not great friends of Israel but they may support us in their own interest," Yehudi Aharonov, the biggest newspaper in Israel, headlined on Friday.

Israeli foreign ministry officials are concerned the Clinton administration will now struggle to uphold international commitments.

"Clinton has suffered a serious blow," says an internal foreign ministry document obtained by the Haaretz newspaper.

"We can no longer totally rely on his promises of maintaining aid to Israel at current levels or of offering American guarantees for Arab-Israeli peace."

"The Republican congressmen support Israel but may block foreign policy initiatives by President Clinton and especially oppose sending soldiers to the Golan."

The deployment of U.S. troops on the plateau is considered a vital component of security arrangements for a peace agreement with Syria.

Former Israeli ambassador to Washington Moshe Arad, said he thought it unlikely that the United States would reduce the \$3 billion annual aid to the Jewish state.

"The risk is that the United States will help the Arabs less and they are counting heavily on the aid, which may have unfortunate consequences on the peace process," he told AFP.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who goes to Washington on Tuesday, said he is convinced that U.S. support for Israel is bi-partisan.

NEWS IN BRIEF

6 Palestinians, Israeli die in truck crash

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A lorry collided with a van full of Palestinian workers on Sunday killing seven people in Israel, police said. The van driver, an Israeli, and six Palestinian workers from the occupied West Bank town of Hebron died. The truck driver escaped unhurt from the crash at Beit Guvrin, between Beersheba and Hebron.

Leggings banned at Egyptian university

CAIRO (AFP) — A university in northern Egypt has banned its female students from wearing fashionable leggings. The deputy vice-chancellor of Tanta University, Mohamed El Shorbagy, has decided to turn away any student wearing leggings, according to official daily Al-Gumhuriya. The move is likely to restart debate on female dress codes in Egyptian schools and universities. Students have so far won their legal battle to wear the Muslim veil in universities, following a ban by Egyptian authorities.

Smoking kills 50,000 in Iran each year

TEHRAN (AFP) — Around 50,000 people die from smoking in Iran each year out of its population of 60 million, the head of the Iranian Environmental Protection Agency, Hadi Manafi, said in remarks published Sunday. Mr. Manafi told a meeting of an anti-smoking campaign committee that Iran spent around 10 billion rials (\$4 million) each year to treat patients with tobacco-related illnesses, newspapers here said. The amount was 10 times the revenue earned from selling cigarettes in Iran, he said. The Iranian parliament passed a strict anti-smoking law in November 1991, regulating the sale and advertisement of cigarettes and banning smoking in government offices and other public places. However, the law, which interfered with the interest of cigarette importers including the powerful Martyrs Foundation, has been only partially executed.

Japan's crown prince visits Bahrain

BAHRAIN (AP) — Japanese Crown Prince Naruhito and Princess Masako arrived Sunday on the final leg of a four-country Gulf tour. Bahrain's crown prince, Sheikh Hamad Ben Isa Al Khalifa, welcomed the royal couple. They plan to spend two days mixing business and pleasure after stops in Saudi Arabia, Oman and Qatar. The visit includes tours of the Bahrain museum and the site of the Gulf region's first oil well, struck in 1934. The couple will also be received by the emir, Sheikh Isa Ben Salman, at the royal palace and will pay a call on the Hope Institute for the Handicapped.

UAE court saves Indian's hand

ABU DHABI (AFP) — An appeal court in the United Arab Emirates has commuted a sentence passed by an Islamic court to amputate the hand of an Indian convicted of theft, newspapers reported Sunday. B. Abdul Rahman, 24, had pleaded guilty during the trial at the Sharia court in Ras Al Khaimah. But he denied the charges at appeal hearings. The judge ruled his denial was enough to annul the punishment laid down by Islamic Law. Instead, he was sentenced to 10 months in jail for stealing electrical appliances.

U.S. urges revision of Greek, Turkish manoeuvres

ANKARA (AFP) — U.S. President Bill Clinton has asked Turkey and Greece to reschedule separate manoeuvres they plan to hold at the same time in the Aegean, to avoid "tension," the Anatolia news agency reported Sunday. Air and sea manoeuvres by the two neighbours are scheduled separately for Nov. 16, the date on which an international sea convention on sea rights will allow Greece to extend its territorial waters from six to 12 nautical miles. Turkey is not a signatory to the convention and has said it will consider the move a warlike act by Greece. The two states have indulged in a war of words in recent months over the issue, which came to a head after reports surfaced last month that Athens had deployed Exocet missiles on some of its islands in the southeast Aegean. Some of the militarised islands are just one kilometre from the Turkish coast.

Number of Jewish settlers climbs 10 per cent

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The number of Israelis occupying the Gaza Strip and West Bank increased 10 per cent in 1993 to 116,000, the national bureau of statistics announced Sunday. The figure represented a fall from an average 15 per cent increase in recent years, said the government bureau, which does not take into account the 160,000 Israelis in Arab East Jerusalem. But settler organisations say colonisation has continued apace this year and more than 130,000 Jews now live in the occupied territories. About two million Palestinians live in Gaza and the West Bank as well as some 160,000 in East Jerusalem.

'Iranian boats chase away U.S. warship'

TEHRAN (AFP) — Revolutionary Guards militiamen in speedboats chased away a U.S. warship in the Gulf after it "harassed" an Iranian cargo vessel, a newspaper reported Sunday. Kayhan said that after the "latest (U.S.) act of harassment," Iranian speedboats "circled the warship, forcing it to clear the way" for the cargo vessel. Iran has lodged a protest at the United Nations over "a number of illegal acts of violation by U.S. warships" in the Gulf, the paper said, quoting an informed source. "They are uninvited guests and provoke tension in the sensitive region of the Persian Gulf," the source said, warning that such "acts of provocation could lead to undesirable consequences." Since the end of the 1991 Gulf war for Kuwait, U.S. naval forces have staged regular joint manoeuvres with the Gulf Arab states.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
17:00 Alice Au Pays Des Merveilles
17:30 Un Pion Tons
18:00 Le Vent Des Moutons
18:30 News in French
18:45 Magazine Sportif
19:00 News in Hebrew
19:30 Movies, Games, and Videos
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Couch
21:10 The Deep Probe
22:00 News in English
22:30 Head Hunters

PRAYER TIMES

06:29 Fair
07:53 (Sunrise) Daba
11:59 Dabur
14:17 Air
16:42 Maghreb
18:42 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweith, Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 623785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Saie Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622666
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773561
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 625256
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 664195
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazarene Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

A depression will affect the Kingdom in the afternoon, thus temperatures will drop with rain expected to fall and winds becoming westerly moderate. In Amman, skies will be partly cloudy, winds southerly moderate and seas rough.

Min./Max. temp. 8 / 19
Amman 15 / 20
Dabur 14 / 25
Jordan Valley 7 / 22

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 24, Aqaba 32 Humidity

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

readings: Amman 27 per cent, Aqaba 21 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Bahjat Badr 849322
Dr. Amr Ashab 622507
Dr. Sa'ad Ali 788285
Dr. Yehia Abdul Salam 736772
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 783336
Al Asena pharmacy 637035
Nairoth pharmacy 624672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsat pharmacy 637660
Nairoth pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Mohammed Al Hibi 279773
Alqud pharmacy (—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Ziyad Jafar (—)
Khalid pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 637111
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue 630341
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 637101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 658800
Police Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information 121
Jordan Television 731111
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Jordan Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 731111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 6442816
Al-Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 6424412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malles, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsat 6647174
St. Joseph Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musaher Hospital 6672279
The Islamic, Abdali 66612757
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Mutajreen 7751013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf 7751126
Army, Marfa 89161115
Queen Alia Hospital 66224050
Amal Hospital 674135
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)863323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)902560
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malles, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsat 6647174
St. Joseph Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musaher Hospital 6672279
The Islamic, Abdali 66612757
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Mutajreen 7751013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf 7751126
Army, Marfa 89161115
Queen Alia Hospital 66224050
Amal Hospital 674135

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)2200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:20 Beirut (RJ)
07:25 Jeddah (RJ)
07:30 Damascus (RJ)
07:35 Riyadh (RJ)
07:40 Amman (RJ)
07:45 New Delhi (RJ)
07:50 Beirut (RJ)
07:55 Cairo (RJ)
08:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
08:05 Bangkok (RJ)
08:10 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
08:15 Jeddah (add) (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

07:35 Cairo (MS)
12:30 Muscat, Abu Dhabi (GF)
14:00 Hudaib (TY)
14:30 Kiev (EU)
15:00 Rome (AZ)
15:30 Paris (AF)
18:15 Dubai (EK)
01:10 Amsterdam (KL)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:45 Beirut (RJ)
06:50 Aqaba (add) (RJ)
07:00 Amman (RJ)
07:05 Amsterdam (RJ)
07:10 London (RJ)
07:15 Frankfurt (RJ)
07:20 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
07:25 Dhahran (RJ)
07:30 Jeddah (add) (RJ)
07:35 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
07:40 Damascus (RJ)
07:45 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:40 Istanbul (TK)
06:45 Beirut (ME)
06:50 Cairo (MS)
06:55 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
07:00 Amman (RJ)
07:05 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
07:10 Bangkok (RJ)
07:15 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
07:20 Jeddah (add) (RJ)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 700 / 500
Banana 680
Bambara (Mukannar) 620
Cabbage 340/200
Carrot 320 / 170
Cauliflower 280 / 200
Cauliflower (large) 360 / 200
Cucumbers (small) 300 / 200
Eggplant 620/500
Fennel 300 / 200
Grape Fruit 300 / 200
Lemon 180 / 100
Marrow (small) 360 / 220
Olive (green) 650 / 450
Onion (green) 320 / 200
Onion (dry) 460 / 300
Orange 650/500
Pepper (hot) 300 / 200
Pepper (sweet) 320 / 200
Potato 320 / 200
Spinach 300 / 180
Tomato 300 / 200
String beans 300 / 200

IN BRIEF

Israeli die in truck crash
A truck collided with a car on Sunday killing seven people from the occupied West Bank. The truck driver escaped unhurt from the crash between Hebron and Jerusalem.

Med at Egyptian university
A university in northern Egypt is offering medical courses to students from the occupied West Bank. The courses are being offered by the Ministry of Health in the West Bank.

\$50,000 in Iran each year
The Iranian government is offering \$50,000 to each of the 100,000 Iranian students who are studying in Jordan.

Prince visits Bahrain
The Crown Prince of Jordan is visiting Bahrain. The visit is part of a tour of the Gulf states.

Indian's hand
An Indian man is being held in Jordan. He is accused of a crime.

Greek, Turkish man
A Greek and a Turkish man are being held in Jordan. They are accused of a crime.

U.S. warship
A U.S. warship is being chased away from the coast of Jordan.

Settlers climbs 10 per cent
The number of settlers in the occupied West Bank has increased by 10 per cent.

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TOURING A SPECIAL PLACE: Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday afternoon in the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts which houses more than 1,500 paintings by 540 artists from Jordan and 48 Islamic nations. Princess Wijdan Ali, president of the Royal Society of Fine Arts here briefs Queen Sofia on the various sections of the



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Sunday receives in his office President of the Organisation of Islamic Conference Hamed Al Ghabid (Petra photo)

Jordan sees next OIC meeting as way to Islamic nations' solidarity

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan looks forward to the meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) due to be held in Morocco in mid-December as a means of re-establishing solidarity among Muslim countries' leaders, said Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Sunday.

Speaking at a meeting in his office with Hamed Al Ghabid, OIC secretary general, Dr. Majali said that leaders of the Islamic nations have a good opportunity at the Morocco meeting to examine issues facing their countries and 'unify' their positions vis-a-vis rapid world developments.

Jordan under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein is intent on contributing to the success of OIC's meetings which are aimed at safeguarding Islamic nations' interests, said the prime minister.

Dr. Ghabid, who came to Jordan to take part in the Institute of Diplomacy's roundtable conference on the human dimensions of the

Experts to search for answers on how to protect environment, sustain development

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Society for the Control of Environmental Pollution and Friedrich Naumann Foundation conduct Wednesday, a one-day seminar evaluating the demands made at important international conferences, starting 1972 in Stockholm and continuing to the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 and the September 1994 Cairo Conference on Population and Development, according to Naumann Foundation Representative to Jordan Walter Rude.

Common understanding exists, that our scientific, industrial civilisation is based on a rigorous exploitation of nature's resources, having led to prosperity and consumerism in the industrialised countries and to poverty and despair in the developing world. In 1989 the 20 per cent richest persons in the world owned 82.7 per cent of the global income, and the 20 per cent poorest people only 1.4 per cent which is a ratio of 59:1," Mr. Rude said.

According to the Foundation representative, apart from poverty the world is also endangered by manifold environmental problems: air, soil and waters are getting

American choir to join NMC choir in celebration of King's birthday

AMMAN (J.T.) — On the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's Birthday, the National Music Conservatory (NMC)/Noor Al Hussein Foundation Wednesday will present a unique musical event to be patronised by Her Majesty Queen Noor, according to an NMC statement.

The event will feature the American La Camera Nove Choir and orchestra accompanied by the NMC Choir and orchestra bringing the number of musicians and singers to a total of 130. The orchestra will be under the baton of the renowned conductor, Francisco de Araujo, according to the NMC.

The event will take place at the Philadelphia Hotel. In organising such an extraordinary event, the NMC said, it aims to provide Jordanians with the opportunity to listen to one of the world's famous performing groups and also to

Celebrations for King's birthday announced

AMMAN (Petra) — The Kingdom today will celebrate His Majesty King Hussein's 59th birthday with a variety of activities in various parts of the country.

In Amman, the municipality plans three days of celebrations starting today with a flower parade through the streets of the capital. Other activities will include major arts and folkloric festivals around town. Fireworks are planned for Monday evening.

On Tuesday a book exhibition entitled, "Al Hussein's Jordan" will be opened at the Department of Libraries and National Archives, and an evening soccer match is also scheduled. A flower exhibition will be opened at the Greater Amman Municipality Cultural Centre on Wednesday morning.

The Ministry of Social Development plans to hold "The Giving and Hope Week" from Nov. 14-21 to include the opening of Al Manar Social Development Centre in Deir Alla, a seminar on the achievements of the ministry, environmental protection activities, a olive-picking campaign, a gardens clean-up activity at social development centres and a seminar on educational progress achieved under the leadership of King Hussein.

The week's activities will also include the inauguration of a juvenile delinquents rehabilitation centre, lectures for youth confined to rehabilitation and reform centres and free medical days for residents of remote and poor areas.

The Ministry of Post and Communications, in cooperation with the Ministry of Water and Irrigation will issue new commemorative stamps which encourage water conservation. Minister Hashem Dabbas said the new stamps will be issued in denominations of 80, 125 and 160 fils.

University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharaibeh Sunday opened a comprehensive exhibition, entitled "Al Hussein's Birth... A Song of Joy and Peace." The exhibition includes several pavilions, with one displaying photos of and addresses by King Hussein and members of the Royal family. It also includes an abstract art exhibition, drawings on glass and clothing, Arabic calligraphy and a section on Jordanian folklore and heritage.

Celebrations by the university will continue until Dec. 4.

In Karak, a charity bazaar was opened at Muta University by Vice-President Abdul Rahim Al Huneidi. The three-day bazaar includes woodworks, tricot, copperware, artworks, agricultural produce such as sage and thyme and other handicrafts produced by students at Muta Special Education Centre, Al Amal School for the Deaf and Al Karak Reform Centre.

10% census sampling to start 'Sample to provide wider variety of information'

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Tuesday marks the first round of Jordan's population census — its first since 1979.

Although the general census is scheduled to be conducted between Dec. 10-15, it will be preceded by a systematic sampling of 10 per cent of the population from Nov. 15-20 in order to better study Jordan's demographic structure prior to and following the general census.

The sample will concentrate on a wider variety of demographic information than the general census, explained Abdullah Abdelaziz Zoubi, the executive director for population census.

"This sample will consider age, sex, nationality, migration information, education, labour force information, information about the physically handicapped, fertility and

mortality," he said, while the general census will concentrate on information at the national level such as housing, information about returnees and refugees and forced migration.

A systematic population sample, to be conducted by census supervisors, enhances the general census in two ways, Dr. Zoubi said. It updates the frame of information currently available before the census, and it also gives census supervisors better knowledge about the areas where they will be supervising other enumerators.

"It's a form of quality control," he said. "With a sample, we can better control quality of the census supervisors and the quality of the information being collected."

Dr. Zoubi emphasised that such a sampling is especially important in a country like Jordan where there have

been significant increases in population in short periods of time and there has been little demographic information available on these groups.

At last count (in 1979), Jordan's population numbered 2,132,000. Today, the population is estimated at approximately 4,000,000 — approximately 10 per cent of which are returnees from the Gulf crisis.

Referring to this group and to the large numbers of Palestinian refugees in the Kingdom, he said that a sampling is the only channel available to study these populations over a long period of time.

Dr. Zoubi emphasised that the sampling is not politically motivated, stating that the information collected during the sampling "is only to assess the demographic composition of Jordan."

The population sampling

will be conducted in much the same way as the general census, but will consist of a longer questionnaire, Dr. Zoubi said.

About 1,500 field workers, who will act as supervisors during the population census, will go door to door during the next five days to collect the sampling information to be studied before the census.

In December, 8,000 field workers will return to each home to conduct the general census.

Dr. Zoubi said the Department of Statistics will publish "quick results" of the census (population, age, sex) within 10 days of completion of the census, but the majority of results from the 10 per cent sampling will not be available until March or April and the results of the general questionnaire will not be available until next October, most likely.

First commercial exhibition on water, environment opens Participants see it as first step in right direction

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The first commercial exhibition on water and environment in Jordan, which opened here Sunday with around 500 visitors, on the first day did not exactly fulfil the participants' expectations, but was generally considered an "important first step in the right direction," as one participant put it.

The exhibition, organised by the Universal Exhibition Corporation, was inaugurated by Minister of State Abdullah Jazi, representing His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, and Water and Irrigation Ministry Secretary General Mohammad Bani Hani.

Mr. Bani Hani called the exhibition "a good start," underlining that technology transfer from Western countries was crucial for developing Jordan's water sector.

Concerning advanced water technology, Jordan depends almost entirely on imports from abroad, a fact which, according to the participants, is not going to change in the near future.

"Jordan cannot produce its own water technology," a sanitary equipment importer said, "but there are already companies importing parts and assembling water equipment, and that is certainly a business in the future."

The show gathers around 20 Jordanian companies from the water sector, most of them importers of foreign water purification and water quality control devices.

A representative of one of Jordan's biggest water technology companies

lamented the lack of organisation, saying that stand rents were too expensive considering the level of services offered. Nevertheless, he was optimistic.

"We do not expect to make any significant business here, but it is good to see what is going on next door," he added.

Several participants agreed that the site was too small and technically not equipped for their exhibits.

"But it is important for us to be here," said an importer of U.S. Water purification technology.

A visitor complained that the choice of participants was all but representative.

"I did not see the Jordanian environment sector here," he told the Jordan Times. "I expected to see not only water technology, but also air pollution control devices and other equipment."

An environmental consultant regretted that hardly any biological waste water treatment technology was on display.

In view of Jordan's outstanding water problems and the number of ambitious projects which have been drawn up to improve the water situation in the country, including desalination plants, dams and canals, the Minister of Water and Irrigation's exhibition stand looked surprisingly modest, showing a TV set and some bleached-out posters of dams and landscapes, accompanied by a bulk of leaflets in Arabic, containing general information.

Meanwhile, the Jordanian Society for the Control of Environmental Pollution (JSCEP) displayed a colourful collection of environmental education material, including posters, booklets and brochures developed by the society as

part of its environmental awareness campaigns.

In a lecture offered by the Environmental Resources Management Consultants (ERM/C), a private consulting firm based in Amman, ERM/C Vice President Iyad Abu Moghli said he hoped a future Jordanian environment law would oblige investors to undertake environment impact assessments before implementing any projects.

Environment impact assessments, Mr. Abu Moghli added, should be multidisciplinary and be carried out at the very beginning of each project. "Investors tend to consider environmental protection an obstacle," Mr. Abu Moghli concluded, "but this is a misunderstanding. A healthy environment is indispensable to ensure sustainable development."

The exhibition will be open until Thursday.



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali discusses training cooperation for a proposed faculty of nursing at the Jordan University of Science Technology (JUST) with visiting President of Windsor University

Canadian university to help JUST form nursing faculty

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Sunday discussed with President of Windsor University in Canada Ron Ianni prospects for cooperation between the Canadian university and the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST), particularly in nursing and medicine.

Under an agreement signed three years ago between JUST and Windsor 750,000 Canadian dollars were allocated for manpower development largely to train cadres from JUST in the nursing and medical professions, according to a JUST official.

The assistance has now been raised to one million Canadian dollars under an agreement reached between the two sides during Dr. Ianni's visit to support such training, which is largely conducted at Windsor University the official told the Jordan Times Sunday.

Windsor is helping JUST prepare a faculty of nursing and laboratories to be attached to JUST's King Abdullah Hospital.

The JD 45 million hospital, which is financed through loans from Arab funds and the Jordanian government, is

being set up by a Spanish firm in accordance with an agreement signed earlier this year.

According to the JUST official, the new hospital will take five years to complete.

Prime Minister Majali voiced Jordan's deep appreciation to the Canadian university for its assistance to JUST.

He said Jordan is entering a new phase in its history marked with openness and serious work to acquire and apply the best available services in various sectors.

The meeting was attended by JUST President Kamel Ajlouni.

In a meeting with Parliament members a few days before the endorsement of the peace treaty with Israel, King Hussein said he hoped the peace treaty "would herald the beginning of a new era, leading to a comprehensive peace embracing the entire region."

The King believes peace with Israel will enable Jordan to tackle basic problems, including poverty, unemployment and water shortages.

The King was deeply influenced by the pro-peace ideas of his grandfather who was assassinated in Jerusalem in 1951 for advocating the recognition of the 1947 U.N. Partition Plan of Palestine into Jewish and Arab sections, according to aides to the King.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ First Exhibition of Jordanian Engineering and Electric Products at the Amman International Exhibition hall, Marj Al Hamam.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Daniel Argimon at the Instituto Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Centre).
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artist Abdul Jabbar Salman at Alaa Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibit entitled "Signs and Symbols: Communication and Interpretation from the Brandywine Workshop" at the American Center.

Congratulations to HIS MAJESTY KING HUSSEIN and the people of the Hashimite Kingdom of Jordan ON HIS MAJESTY'S BIRTHDAY

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Consulting Engineers
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Right's dissension, scandals improve Delors poll chances

PARIS (AFP) — Scandal within the French government and open war within the ruling conservative coalition over next year's presidential elections have blighted Prime Minister Edouard Balladur's image and smoothed the way for the likely Socialist candidate, outgoing European Commission President Jacques Delors.

At the weekend, Development Aid Minister Michel Roussin became the third minister in Mr. Balladur's government to be forced out under suspicion of corruption or fraud, and his resignation could not but affect the government's credibility.

Mr. Roussin was replaced by pro-Balladur Gaullist MP Bernard Debré, a urologist who carried out outgoing Socialist President Francois Mitterrand's two prostate cancer operations.

Mr. Roussin is expected to be charged with using fraudulent invoices to obtain money for the Gaullist RPR party of which Mr. Balladur is a leading member.

Already the resignations of former Communication Minister Alain Carignon, who last month was charged with corruption, and Industry

Minister Gerard Longuet who quit in October have rubbed off on Mr. Balladur's standing in opinion polls.

For the first time, Mr. Delors overtook Mr. Balladur in a presidential popularity poll published by the daily *Parisien Libere* last Friday. The poll, carried out by the CSA institute, credited Mr. Delors with 50 per cent against 45 per cent for Mr. Balladur.

In other recent polls Mr. Delors has been shown as running neck-and-neck with Mr. Balladur if the two were pitted against each other in a second round run off.

The prime minister was "unconvincing" in his attitude towards corruption and illegal political party financing, 49 per cent said in another poll published on Oct. 19, compared with 42 per cent who thought the contrary.

That poll, by the BVA institute, also said 56 per cent of the French thought the scandals were "damaging to Edouard Balladur's credibility."

Socialist Party spokesman Jean Glavany said Mr. Roussin's resignation had "damaged the image of the government of France in the world"

and Radical Party leader Jean-Francois Hory called outright for the government's resignation.

On the right, National Assembly speaker Philippe Seguin warned that Mr. Balladur and his main right-wing rival for the presidency, Jacques Chirac, had set a "suicidal" course and were smoothing the way for Mr. Delors in the presidential, due next April and May.

Mr. Seguin, who like Mr. Balladur and Mr. Chirac is a member of the Gaullist Rally For the Republic (RPR), was explaining why he boycotted an RPR conference Saturday that turned into a de facto endorsement of Mr. Chirac's candidacy. Mr. Seguin said it was time to admit there were two RPR candidates in the shape of the prime minister and Mr. Chirac.

Mr. Seguin's defection and that of Interior Minister Charles Pasqua left the RPR in disarray as Mr. Chirac launched his most virulent attack yet on Mr. Balladur, saying "France has lost confidence in its leaders" and denouncing the "pernicious climate" prevailing in French

politics which he said was "undermining public life."

Mr. Pasqua has been pressing for the holding of a U.S.-style primary election to choose a single candidate to represent the governing centre-right coalition in the presidential poll.

But Mr. Balladur has vowed not to state whether he will run in the presidential vote next April-May until early 1995. Mr. Chirac's decision to announce his candidacy early, on Nov. 4, was seen as aiming to pre-empt a Balladur candidacy by pitching for party backing.

On Saturday, Mr. Chirac burned his boats by resigning as president of the RPR, his personal creation, to free himself to fight the campaign from an above-party stance. The Gaullist leader has indicated that whatever the outcome of the presidential, he will not seek to resume as party chief.

Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, who is RPR secretary-general, took over from Mr. Chirac as the party's interim leader, with a strong statement of support for Mr. Chirac's presidential bid.



Space shuttle Atlantis payload commander Ellison Onizuka is interviewed from orbit via a video link from the shuttle's flight deck. Onizuka is using models of the CRISTA-SPAS satellite and the shuttle to explain how the crew retrieved the satellite early Saturday (AFP photo)

Shuttle crew wraps up research

SPACE CENTRE, Houston (AP) — Atmospheric monitors peered down on Earth from Atlantis Sunday for a final round of experiments before the shuttle's scheduled landing.

Atlantis is set to return to Florida, weather permitting, Monday morning after 11 days of science experiments focused on the shrinking ozone layer and how it is affected by the sun.

Six instruments in the shuttle cargo bay spent Sunday surveying the ozone layer, which shields life on Earth

from ultraviolet light, and measuring solar energy reflected by the atmosphere. A seventh monitor broke on the flight's second day.

All the instruments were to be turned off later in the day. A \$35 million German satellite carrying two ozone monitors finished its work Saturday, when astronauts recaptured it for the ride home. The satellite collected millions of atmospheric images during eight days of free flight.

The retrieval was the last major task for Atlantis' six

astronauts. They wrapped up secondary experiments Sunday, including a crystal growth study, and completed other chores in preparation for landing.

Flight controllers, meanwhile, studied an ice, 4 to 5 feet (1.2 to 1.5 metres) long and an inch (2.5 cms) in diameter, stuck to a cargo bay door. The ice formed a few days ago when waste water was dumped overboard through a nozzle.

Mission operations director Lee Briscoe said the ice was likely to eventually melt.

Sri Lanka rebels declare unilateral truce

COLOMBO (AFP) — Tamil Tiger guerrillas declared a unilateral ceasefire to mark the swearing in of President Chandrika Kumaratunga who vowed to revive efforts to end ethnic bloodletting, military sources said Sunday.

The rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) messaged their cadres over their clandestine radio network, that they would observe a one-week unilateral truce following Mrs.

Kumaratunga's inauguration Saturday, the sources said.

"The navy intercepted the message about the ceasefire Saturday night. They (the Tigers) say they will not attack security forces but reserve the right to carry out defensive operations," a military source said.

However, a military field commander said they were not taking the Tiger ceasefire seriously. "There is no way we can

reciprocate because Tigers have violated their own ceasefire in the past," a military commander in eastern Sri Lanka said. "Our orders to ground troops is do not take notice of this truce but remain alert."

There was no immediate reaction from the government which was busy with deciding a date for the official appointment of a cabinet after astrologers said there was no auspicious time on Sunday for the swearing in ceremony.

Debate swirls over U.S. standards for teaching world history classes

WASHINGTON (AFP) — An academic debate is swirling over whether Asian and African history and the evolution of Islam should be taught in U.S. world history classes as part of moves away from their traditional Western focus.

While local school districts always decide the bulk of what their students are taught or not taught, the idea is to broaden what secondary students are exposed to — mostly Western civilisations — to include the cultures of growing U.S. minorities.

Students who used to learn about ancient Greek civilisation and the Roman empire, the argument goes, would also learn about pre-Columbian societies across the Americas, such as those of the Olmecs and Mayas people in modern-day Mexico.

They would also learn about the Prophet Mohammad and the global propagation of Islam, as well as about cultures in Asia and Africa, and

more about African-American and female historical figures.

The project, called "National Standards for World History: Exploring Paths to the Present," is the outcome of two and a half years of research by historians at the University of California at Los Angeles.

It charts a possible curriculum for teaching world history to students in junior and senior high schools (aged 12-18), from the beginning of human civilisation to the 21st century.

A highly controversial feature of the plan would be that students no longer would be required to memorise by rote major events in history, but instead would have to be able to explain them, analyse them and discuss their repercussions on the rest of the world.

"Properly taught, history develops capacities for analysis (...), preparing (students) to make sensible and independent judgements," the

study says.

Students aged around 13 for example would be expected to be able to explain in the development of tropical agriculture in South East Asia and the fundamental role of bamboo in the economy.

Some critics see the plan for change as impossibly ambitious. And Gilbert Sewall, the president of the American Textbook Council, is offended by what he sees as an effort to portray the history of the United States and of Europe in a "fairly unflattering light."

Other opponents see the reform idea as nothing more than "politically correct" propaganda, meant to know-how to minority groups at the expense of the majority.

But the argument has only begun to heat up, as demographers predict that within a decade or two, U.S. citizens of Hispanic, African and Asian descent taken as a whole will outnumber those of European origin.

Clinton takes Filipino security through paces

MANILA (R) — U.S. President Bill Clinton gave Filipino security men more of a run than they are used to Sunday when he went for a jog shortly after arriving in Manila for a one-day visit. Photographers covering the early-morning run said a handful of Filipino securitymen looked out of breath after Mr. Clinton led them on five laps around a park outside his hotel. The Luneta Park, normally crowded with people on a Sunday, was deserted after being cleared by security forces. Mr. Clinton, who arrived seven hours earlier after a long trans-Pacific flight, waved and gave a thumbs-up sign when asked how he was.

The Irish are biggest tea drinkers

LONDON (AP) — The Irish, who have a reputation for harder stuff, maintained their position as the world's biggest tea drinkers, according to a survey by the International Tea Committee. The British are second followed by Qatar, Turkey, Hong Kong and Iran. Per capita consumption in the Irish Republic in 1991-93 averaged 3.32 kilos, compared with 2.61 kilos in Britain and 2.30 kilos in Qatar, according to the London-based producer-consumer group's just published annual statistical bulletin. The new report shows that the former Soviet Union overtook Britain as the world's biggest importer of tea in 1993. Countries in the former Soviet Union bought 198,000 metric tonnes, while Britain purchased 158,000 tonnes. The committee's figures, based on the 1992-93 average, show that Turks consume an average of 2.14 kilos, followed by Hong Kong and Iran, both with 1.74 kilos, and Kuwait with 1.69 kilos. Figures for the other top 20 tea consumers, in kilos per head, are: Syria 1.66, Tunisia 1.42, Bahrain 1.41, New Zealand 1.38, Egypt 1.25, Sri Lanka 1.23, Saudi Arabia 1.14, Morocco 1.05, Japan 1.04, Pakistan 0.99, Australia 0.96, the F.S.U 0.78 and Poland 0.69.

Natural Born Killers gets London 'premiere'

LONDON (R) — The controversial film *Natural Born Killers* was applauded by an audience in London early Sunday after what could be its only British screening. More than 800 people packed a West End cinema to see Oliver Stone's tale of how a serial-killing couple go on a murderous rampage and are glorified by the media. The film has been linked to copycat killings in the United States and France and has yet to win a British certificate after the British Board of Film Classification could not agree a rating, preventing its general release. The late-night screening was part of the London Film Festival under a special temporary licence. It had been sold out for two weeks and only a dozen out of 200 people who turned up without tickets managed to get in. Afterwards members of the audience were generally agreed on the film's merits but doubtful about whether it would pass the censor, at least in its present form. London video store manager Malcolm Hay, 27, said: "I would recommend it to all my customers over 18. Oliver Stone is making the point that the media make these people into heroes." Mick Bailey, 28, who works in advertising, said: "It was more a statement about the media than about murdering, which was secondary. It should get a certificate, though I don't think it will get one." Daniel Noy, a 20-year-old student, thought it might pass the censor. "There's a lot more violent films been made — and he refers to them, the Texas Chainsaw Massacre for example, in the film. 'Technically the film is brilliant. It's probably the most expensive art-house movie ever to come out of Hollywood.' The film, starring former Cheers barman Woody Harrelson and Juliette Lewis, shows numerous violent killings and refers to many more which are not seen."

Major faces pressures on strategy

LONDON (R) — Britain's beleaguered Conservative government this week unveiled legislative plans which will show whether it has opted for consolidation or continued radical reform in its bid to improve its bleak political fortunes.

Prime Minister John Major, under right-wing fire for dropping a plan for post office privatisation, faces pressure to announce eye-catching bills for the new

session of parliament. "If the government does nothing but wait upon economic recovery, it will almost certainly lose the general election," the Conservative-supporting *Daily Telegraph* commented recently.

A general election is due by mid-1997 and the latest poll put the Tories 18 points behind the opposition Labour Party.

But moderate party mem-

bers are appealing for a slowing of the heady pace of change which began when Margaret Thatcher won the 1979 general election and started a free market revolution.

"We have had hyperactive government for quite a few years. It would be better to have a period of consolidation than to look frenetically for new measures," said lawmaker Hugh Dykes.

Japan weighed nuclear option — daily

TOKYO (R) — Japan secretly studied developing nuclear weapons in the late 1960s but ruled out making atomic bombs for political and diplomatic reasons, a major newspaper reported Sunday. The *Asahi Shimbun* said the government of Prime Minister Eisaku Sato commissioned a panel of academic experts to study Japan's nuclear weapons options over a period of two and a half years from 1967.

The reports concluded that Japan could in a short time acquire the technical capacity to develop a small number of plutonium-based bombs, but that doing so would isolate Japan diplomatically, strain state coffers and draw intense political opposition at home, the paper said.

The reports also questioned the nuclear deterrent value of Tokyo's possessing a few nuclear weapons in the face of large atomic arsenals held by the Soviet Union and China.

"This report explained to foreign observers and to those in Japan who argued in favour of nuclear armament why Japan could not build nuclear weapons," the *Asahi* quoted one of the panelists, a former official at the International Atomic Energy Agency as saying.

Then Prime Minister Sato — who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1974 for promoting Japan's non-nuclear policies — was aware of the contents of the secret report, the *Asahi* said.

Bhutto criticised over Kashmir resolution failure

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Pakistan's failure to win support for a U.N. resolution on Kashmir has embarrassed Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government, whose critics say she has handed another diplomatic victory to arch-foe India.

Opposition leader Nawaz Sharif, who rejected Ms. Bhutto's proposal that he lead Pakistan's delegation to the U.N. General Assembly, said that by repeatedly withdrawing Kashmir resolutions, Ms. Bhutto was helping India to continue what he called its occupation of the disputed Himalayan state.

Pakistan, working through a Kashmir contact group set up by the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), had hoped to move a resolution urging the United Nations to help settle the Kashmir dispute, but could not muster sufficient support.

Last week's debate followed last-minute decisions to pull Kashmir resolutions from the U.N. General Assembly a year ago and from the U.N. Human Rights Commission in Geneva in March.

The latest resolution, drafted by the OIC contact group, noted increased ten-

sions in Jammu and Kashmir and invited U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali to help resolve the dispute.

A Foreign Office spokesman said the resolution was not moved due to procedural objections by some Latin American countries.

He said Pakistan had succeeded in drawing international attention to Muslim-majority Kashmir and in bringing pressure to bear on India to halt alleged human rights abuses there.

"Kashmir as a flashpoint has been mentioned in the U.N. secretary general's report," he added.

But opposition parties were demanding that heads roll.

"We hold the prime minister responsible for this humiliation of Pakistan. She must resign at once or we will ensure she is thrown out," declared Senator Raja Zafar Haq, a member of Mr. Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League (PML).

Newspapers have quoted the leader of Pakistan's U.N. delegation, veteran politician Nawabzada Nasrullah, as saying he may resign from his post as chairman of a special parliamentary committee on Kashmir when he returns

from New York.

Senator Khurshid Ahmad of the right-wing Jamat-i-Islami Party resigned from the U.N. delegation Friday, saying that he was "extremely sad and disappointed."

The militant Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), fighting for an independent Kashmir, also voiced its anger.

JKLF leader Amanullah Khan said that what he described as "the third painful wound inflicted on the Kashmiri freedom struggle" had disgraced Pakistan and might demoralise Kashmiris.

Kashmir has been the cause of two of the three wars between India and Pakistan since independence from Britain in 1947.

New Delhi accuses Pakistan of arming Kashmiri militants who launched a revolt against Indian rule in 1990. Pakistan denies this, saying it gives them only moral and diplomatic support.

Several newspaper commentators have criticised the government and opposition for treating Kashmir as a political football, rather than showing a common front on a national issue.

Meanwhile, detectives arrested the father of Mr.

Sharif in Lahore Sunday in a move likely to intensify political tension in the country.

Mian Mohammad Sharif, a leading industrialist was taken away by members of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) but charged against him were not immediately known.

A senior police official said his arrest could be linked to an FIA probe into alleged financial fraud at the Sharif family's Ittefaq Group.

No fraud case has been initiated in court, but the FIA is known to be investigating the affairs of the company.

The 70-year-old founder of Ittefaq, which has cement, fertilizer and textile interests, was taken into custody from a raid by dozens of armed policemen, witnesses said.

"I am worried because my old father is not in good health," said Mr. Sharif. The government of Ms. Bhutto has repeatedly accused Ittefaq officials of building their industrial empire in wrongful ways and of cheating the government out of millions of dollars in taxes.

A war of words has been raging recently between the government and opposition.

Thousands march in Washington against Cuba embargo

WASHINGTON (R) — Thousands of protesters marched in front of the White House demanding the United States lift its embargo against Communist Cuba.

The crowd, estimated at 2,200 by the police and at 7,000 by organisers, filed past the presidential residence shouting "Cuba si, bloque no" (Spanish for "Cuba yes, blockade no") before gathering at a park across the street.

"We've come here to deliver a message to the reactionaries who won on Nov. 8. The American people don't want this blockade against Cuba to go on," one of the organisers, Lucius Walker Jr, said in a speech.

He was referring to polls Tuesday in which Republicans won dominance of both houses of Congress from the Democrats. President Bill Clinton is a Democrat.

Mr. Walker's group, Pastors For Peace, is staging in Washington this week the finale of a nationwide campaign to collect donations of food and medicines to take to Cuba via Canada.

Mr. Walker said a caravan of trucks loaded with 150 tonnes of donations will set off for Buffalo, New York, Wednesday to cross into nearby Canada Thursday.

At the rally, former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark said the embargo against Cuba was an act of aggression against Cuba's entire population.

"It is intended to make people die earlier," the former Lyndon Johnson administration official said in his speech to the banner-waving crowd of Socialist activists, union workers, war veterans, students and Latin American expatriates.

The Clinton administration tightened the sanctions against Cuba in September after its Communist leader Fidel Castro threatened to allow a massive boatload of dissidents to the United States.

The United States had said it will only ease those measures when Mr. Castro, who has ruled Cuba since 1959, makes deep reforms in his one-party political system.

Mandela's prison years mirrored apartheid battle

LONDON (R) — Nelson Mandela endured appalling conditions during his 18 years in South Africa's notorious Robben Island Prison where his battle inside mirrored the bigger battle outside, he said in his autobiography.

In the first extracts of his memoirs *Long Walk To Freedom* published in the *Observer* Sunday, South Africa's first black president described the prison as apartheid in miniature and told the indignities he suffered as a political prisoner.

"Robben Island was without question the harshest, most iron-fisted outpost in the South African penal system. It was a hardship station not only for the prisoners but for the prison staff," he wrote in the book to be published on Nov. 30.

"The racial divide on Robben Island was absolute: There were no black warders, and no white prisoners."

Mr. Mandela, sentenced to life in prison under the suppression Act in 1964 for his political activities against the country's racist policies, was 46 when he arrived with African National Congress (ANC) members Walter Sisulu and Ahmad "Kathy" Kathrada.

"I could walk the length of my cell in three paces, when I lay down I could feel the wall with my feet and my head grazed the concrete at the other side. The cell was about six feet wide (1.8 metres) and the walls were at least two feet thick (0.7 metres)," he said.

His cramped quarters had no running water or toilet. Daily life consisted of a monotonous routine of meagre meals, backbreaking work crushing stones into gravel or working in a blinding time quarry, minimal exercise and cold washes.

Infrequent family visits were brief and monitored by up to five guards. Even the most basic items — long trousers, sunglasses against the unrelenting glare, equalised food with other prisoners and study privileges — had to be fought for.

"The campaign to improve conditions in prison was part of the apartheid struggle. We fought injustice, no matter how large or how small, wherever we found it. We fought to preserve our humanity."

Despite the physical hardships Mr. Mandela found the separation from his family, the imprisonment of his wife, Winnie, and the death of his mother and oldest son the most difficult to bear.

"There was nothing I

Clinton takes Filipino security through paces

MANILA (AP) — President Bill Clinton gave his first security briefing to a group of Filipino officials Sunday, when he was in Manila for a four-day visit. Clinton, who is on his way to the Philippines, was seen by a group of officials from the Philippine Department of Defense and the Philippine Air Force. Clinton was seen with a group of officials from the Philippine Department of Defense and the Philippine Air Force. Clinton was seen with a group of officials from the Philippine Department of Defense and the Philippine Air Force.

The Irish are biggest tea drinkers

LONDON (AP) — The Irish are the biggest tea drinkers in the world, according to a survey by the International Tea Commission. The survey found that the Irish consume an average of 2.5 kilograms of tea per person per year, compared to 1.5 kilograms for the British and 1.0 kilogram for the Americans.



Riot police stop some 500 leftist anti-U.S. demonstrators Saturday as U.S. President Bill Clinton was arriving for an overnight visit in Manila. Police dispersed the demonstrators when they tried to march to the Manila Hotel where Mr. Clinton stayed (AFP photo)

Clinton hails U.S.- Philippine ties, sacrifices

MANILA (Agencies) — President Bill Clinton hailed Sunday the vitality of U.S.-Philippine ties and paid tribute to troops from both countries who fought Japan in World War II, saying the "spirit of Bataan and Corregidor" had helped freedom to flourish. Clinton, who arrived in Manila on Sunday, was seen by a group of officials from the Philippine Department of Defense and the Philippine Air Force. Clinton was seen with a group of officials from the Philippine Department of Defense and the Philippine Air Force.

Stressing that he is still fully in charge of the country's global affairs, Mr. Clinton said the power "vested in the president by the constitution... is quite clear." He also took a conciliatory stance toward Republicans who will run Congress from January. Refusing to be drawn into a debate with conservative Congressman Newt Gingrich, who has declared the opposition will cooperate but not compromise, Mr. Clinton said: "Insofar as I can work with them, I will do my best to do it."



United States President Bill Clinton prays over the grave of Private First Class William Thomas of Wynne, Arkansas, at a memorial ceremony honoring Allied dead in World War II in the Philippines (AFP photo)

Mr. Clinton, 48, the first U.S. leader born after World War II, spoke after touring Corregidor, an island fortress at the mouth of Manila Bay where some of the war's fiercest battles occurred. It is also the site of the Malinta Tunnel which General Douglas MacArthur made his headquarters during the last desperate days of the war. After Gen. MacArthur escaped to Australia, Corregidor's 12,000 defenders fell to a Japanese siege in the biggest surrender in U.S. history. On the island, Mr. Clinton met William Martin, a 75-year-old veteran who served there and later survived the notorious Bataan "death march."

Angolan government ready to declare truce

LUANDA (Agencies) — The Angolan government said Sunday it was ready to call a truce valid for the whole of the war-ravaged country if the military leaders of the ruling MPLA and UNITA rebels could agree a date for ending hostilities. In a declaration to the press, the government, headed by the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), noted "the necessity to reestablish a climate of confidence" between the movement and rebels from the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA). A military delegation from UNITA was due later in the Angolan capital Lusaka to discuss with Angolan government officials how to put a ceasefire agreement into effect in the former Portuguese colony. In principle, a ceasefire is supposed to come into operation 48 hours after the official signing in Lusaka of a peace accord, scheduled for Tuesday following months of hard bargaining between the two sides. Recent government gains in the rebel stronghold of

Huambo in central Angola had cast doubt on the talks' outcome, but UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi was reported Saturday to have said he would go to Lusaka for the signing of the peace accord despite the government offensive continuing. The Portuguese News Agency (LUSA) quoted UNITA representative in Washington Marcos Samondo as saying the rebels' administrative affairs head General Paulo Lukamba Gato had told U.N. mediator Alioune Blondin Beye the four-day delay in their delegation arriving in Lusaka was due to government offensive. The UNITA delegation was set to include its secretary general, Eugenio Manuvela. Elsewhere, the commander of government forces holding Ndalatando in Kwanza-Norte province east of Luanda said rebel troops were currently deployed two kilometers from the town. Lieutenant-General Jose Domingos Baptista Correia told state radio the UNITA forces were manning an observation post so close to the army they were "practically in direct contact with our troops."

Bosnia appeals for U.N. action

SARAJEVO (R) — The Muslim-led Bosnian government, struggling to defend the besieged northwest Bihać enclave, has appealed for U.N. action to stave off a Serb onslaught. The U.N. Security Council planned to hold consultations Sunday over Bihać after Bosnia's President Alija Izetbegovic urged it to discuss a "deteriorating situation." Bosnian Serb forces are threatening the enclave and Bihać town, a U.N.-designated "safe area," after rolling back the government army in the northwest. Bosnian Serbs have enlisted the help of rebel Serb artillery in neighbouring Croatia in their assault on the mountainous enclave, with Krajina Serbs launching heavy shelling attacks on Muslim positions, according to U.N. peacekeepers. Mr. Izetbegovic said Saturday that the shelling attacks by Bosnian Serb troops and by rebel Serbs in Croatia were "in flagrant violation of all Security Council resolutions."

Fighting had subsided in the northwest region but he said Bosnian Serbs may be pausing to resupply troops before pressing ahead with their counter-attack. "It's very quiet up there today, military activity has completely tailed off," spokesman Colonel Tim Spicer told Reuters in Sarajevo. "The Serbs may be reorganising for a hard push." The commander of the Muslim-led army, General Rasim Delic, blasted the United Nations for failing to stop rebel Serb forces in Croatia from intervening in the Bosnian conflict. "How can units from one state be allowed to attack another state?" he said. "In a way it means the U.N. is practically protecting the Serbs." Bihać town, on the southern edge of the pocket which is surrounded by Serbs, is a U.N. protected "safe haven" and Serbs risk attack by NATO warplanes when they shell it. The Bosnian Serbs claim that they have taken back strategic high ground above Bihać town, but Col. Spicer of the U.N. said the Muslims still held the area. The high ground, known as the Grabice Plateau, was used by Serbs to shell Bihać town since the early days of the war until Muslims captured it in their autumn offensive. Only two weeks ago, the Bosnian government army's Fifth Corps was claiming the Muslims' first military victory of the war after launching an offensive from the enclave which captured 250-square kilometres of Serb territory. Informal sources said the Serbs were caught unawares but appeared to have recovered quickly under General Manojlo Milovanovic, second-in-command of the Bosnian Serb Army. He declared martial law, sacked inept local commanders and drafted in reinforcements from the Serbs' elite Banja Luka Corps for a counter-attack, the sources said. Russia denied Sunday a German magazine report that it has supplied weapons to the Bosnian Serbs despite a U.N. arms embargo. The arms embargo was imposed in 1991 on former Yugoslavia in an unsuccessful attempt to limit the war. The United States said Friday it would stop participating in the enforcement of the embargo against Bosnian Muslim forces, which have been crippled by the arms ban. The American decision has been widely criticised by NATO member countries, who fear the move could endanger peace efforts and their peacekeeping troops in Bosnia. France renewed criticism Saturday of a U.S. decision to stop enforcing the U.N. arms embargo on Bosnian Muslims, saying it might force Paris to withdraw its peacekeeping troops from the region. "If the embargo is officially lifted, or even if it continues to be eaten away, the time will come when it will no longer be reasonable for us to risk the lives of our soldiers," Foreign Minister Alain Juppé said. Bosnia has nearly 7,000 peacekeepers involved in land, sea or air operations in ex-Yugoslavia, more than any other nation. It has repeatedly said in the past that it might be forced to withdraw its forces if the embargo is lifted. Bosnian Serbs threatened Sunday to carry out their own "demilitarisation" of the EU-administered Mostar region in reprisal for an alleged "massacre" by government forces of a Serb village, according to Bosnian Serb television monitored here. Serb regional army command said in a statement it did not recognise Mostar's status as a U.N.-mandated safe area given that the Muslim-controlled part of the region between Blagaj and Bijelo Polje was "a bastion of Islamic fanatics and an arsenal of modern war material."

Claes: NATO ready to help WEU

BRUSSELS (AFP) — The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) stands ready to assist the Western European Union (WEU) in military operations in which the United States and Canada decline to participate, NATO Secretary General Willy Claes said Sunday. "We cannot wait for the United States to take charge each time a crisis occurs," Mr. Claes told a seminar in Rimini, Italy according to a text of his remarks received here. He pledged that NATO was prepared "to place at the WEU's disposition collective means for operations with which the United States and Canada do not wish to be associated."

Angry white men chased Democrats out of U.S. Congress, experts say

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Angry white men voted Democrats out of Congress at the polls last week, according to experts who say the party of President Bill Clinton owes its debacle to a loss of support in its southern strongholds. Republicans cashed in on the wrath of white male voters, in particular those in the south, to stage a political tour de force that saw them gain control of both houses in Congress for the first time in 40 years. Analysts agree that while the "Grand Old Party" has not achieved a turnaround of historic proportions, last week's electoral upset cast doubt as to whether a Democratic agenda will play an important role in U.S. politics for the upcoming years. "1994 may be the year of the man" commented the Washington Post last week, while USA Today chose as its headline "Angry white men."

Overall, 51 per cent of voters supported Republicans in the Nov. 8 election while 49 per cent voted Democrat. But among white voters, 63 per cent supported Republicans from practically all age and income groups. Only poor white voters who earn less than \$15,000 a year came out in favour of Democrats. Democrats were able to hold onto support from black voters and women, 54 per cent of whom voted for Mr. Clinton's allies in Congress but this base was not enough to curb the white men's wrath. The wave of anger swept most of the country including the populous states of California, Texas, Michigan, Tennessee and Virginia. Republicans picked up votes in the southern states and voters there sent the largest contingent of GOP representatives to Congress since Abraham Lincoln was in office. "Particularly in the South, if you talk to males age 18 to 34 and find one Democrat, that's like finding a six-pound trout in a small stream," said Bob Beckel, a Democratic adviser who ran the campaign in 1984 for presidential candidate Walter Mondale. Voter shift towards Republicans in the south is of particular concern to supporters of Mr. Clinton, himself from the south, as southern conservatives formed the core along with ethnic minorities, liberals and union activists of the Democratic power base. "They used to tell us (we) couldn't write off the black vote and expect to win. I don't know how the Democrats can write off the white males and expect to win," said Republican pollster Tom Edmonds. Experts say the Republican campaign planks of cracking down on crime and lowering taxes won support among white male voters for Republicans. Others however note that the shift towards the Republican Party had begun long before the midterm poll with the Washington Post saying that the GDP may be in a position to reclaim a dominant role in American government that it has not had since the 1920s. Republicans won 230 seats in the 435-member House of Representatives and will hold 53 of the 100 Senate seats. The outcome of five House races remained in limbo at the weekend.

Commonwealth proposal takes steam out of Bangladesh opposition to strike

DHAKA (R) — Commonwealth envoy Sir Ninian Stephen offered new proposals to end Bangladesh's political crisis taking some of the steam out of the second day of an opposition-led strike Sunday. Sir Ninian's new initiative to break the political standoff was cautiously welcomed with one opposition leader expressing optimism over a possible end to the deadlock.

"People have become somewhat optimistic about a possible solution in light of the latest Commonwealth proposals. That's why we are having less pickets on the streets," the opposition leader said. During talks Saturday Sir Ninian told Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and opposition leader Sheikh Hasina they must choose from three formulas prepared by him or risk pushing the country into a worse crisis, sources close to the parties said. The first proposal is for an 11-member interim government headed by Mrs. Khaleda. It would include five members from the BNP (Bangladesh Nationalist Party).

Don't risk peace, Reynolds tells Labour

DUBLIN (R) — Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds appealed to his disgruntled Labour coalition allies Sunday not to bring down the government and put the quest for a Northern Ireland peace settlement at risk. "At this crucial stage of the peace process, it is my personal conviction that the interests of the nation are best served by the government continuing in office," Mr. Reynolds said. It was his second appeal in less than 24 hours and underlined the crisis facing his two-year-old coalition over Labour's demand for a greater say in government appointments. The appeal was more dramatic than a Saturday night statement, and Mr. Reynolds paid tribute to Labour leader and Deputy Premier Dick Spring as a "man of deeply held convictions."

Labour's 33 parliamentary members gathered at a Dublin hotel to decide whether or not to pull out of the coalition with Mr. Reynolds' Fianna Fail Party, which has 67 seats in the 165-seat house. Labour sources said the mood was sombre but they could not predict whether the meeting would opt to leave government, patch up the row or try to form an administration with opposition parties. At issue is Mr. Reynolds' nomination of Attorney-General Harry Whelehan as high court president. Labour say their views were not taken into account and suspect that he is too conservative on matters such as divorce. The uncertainty cast a shadow over the Northern Ireland peace process just weeks before Mr. Reynolds meets British Prime Minister John Major to launch the second phase of their year-old Downing Street Declaration blueprint. Worried officials of Sinn Féin, political wing of the Irish Republican Army (IRA), said they feared that a collapse of the government would stall the peace drive at a crossroads and rob it of new-found momentum. Martin McGuinness, a senior Sinn Féin leader, said at the weekend that he was very worried about the Irish government crisis because opposition parties such as Fine Gael were much more hardline in their attitude to Republicans. John Bruton's Fine Gael party is much less sympathetic to Sinn Féin and has demanded that the IRA hand over its arsenals before being admitted to political talks with the British and Irish governments. Mr. Reynolds' Fianna Fail and Labour were both rejected by voters in two by-elections last week. Labour's loss of a seat highlighted its falling national popularity. The minority partner feels that it has been steamrollered into unpopular government decisions, especially in taking a hard line on the streamlining of state and semi-state enterprises which has shed hundreds of hard-found jobs. Mr. Whelehan's appointment was made more controversial by Labour's anger at his office's failure for seven months to handle an extradition warrant from Northern Ireland for a priest suspected of child sex abuse. Fr. Brendan Smyth went to Northern Ireland voluntarily and was jailed for Child Molestering over a 24-year period. Labour said the delay in handling the extradition request was unforgivable.

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A day to celebrate

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein's 59th birthday is indeed a special occasion since it coincides with a potential rebirth of this country as a whole. The signing and ratification of the peace treaty with Israel will surely go down in history as among the most momentous events in the history of the Kingdom. The Monarch's personal involvement in the peace process made all this rapid transformation in the Jordanian-Israeli relations possible. It took a determined commitment and vision by the King to move the peace talks forward at a time when they appeared to be dragging at a slow pace. The importance of this year's achievement, obviously, goes beyond present times since it would surely usher in new and dynamic changes in the entire region. We all have therefore additional reasons to be more confident today since peace can be expected to bring not only economic dividends to Jordanians but also hope for the future to all the peoples of the region.

Only a few years back, the King, led to near despair by the events of the eighties that culminated in the Gulf war, spoke with bitterness of the future of the Middle East and its peoples. He kept warning time and again that unless bold action was taken to further peace and address the problems created by the Arab-Israeli conflict, the region would be heading towards inevitable disaster.

When hope was ushered in by the 1991 Madrid conference, the King saw hope and deliverance at the end of the tunnel and he put all his efforts in the process, furthering it locally, regionally and at the international level.

It is therefore with feeling of great satisfaction that His Majesty and his people celebrate his 59th year. Whether peace will bring the people of Jordan and their King all the hoped-for stability, prosperity and peace of mind remains to be seen. What is sure, though, is that the King has done everything possible to put Jordan on the right track, and the whole world before its real responsibilities.

It is hoped now that next year, when the King celebrates his 60th birthday, he and his people will have much to celebrate, including the liberation of other occupied Arab lands and the promise of a better future for Jordanians and the whole region.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE GOVERNMENT'S decision to reduce customs duties on cars and other consumer items was welcomed by Al Dastour daily which expressed hope that the move would stimulate commercial activities in Jordan. The paper said that the reduction would no doubt benefit industry and enable local manufacturing firms to compete more successfully with foreign companies in markets abroad. The government did well in taking the appropriate decision at the right moment, when the Jordanian people expect remuneration following four years of hardships in the wake of the Gulf war and its adverse consequences on the Jordanian economy, said the paper. Indeed the reduction of customs duty on cars will boost the transport sector at a time when Jordan, which signed the peace treaty with Israel, is looking forward to entering new era of relationships with other countries and expects development in tourism and trade, added the paper. The government's decision, said the daily, is no doubt viewed with deep satisfaction on the part of the public which has long waited for moves to ease the hardships resulting from the high cost of consumer goods. The paper expressed hope and said that the government was bound to benefit from the move as more export and import activities are expected to come about in the coming stage.

FAHD AL Fanek a columnist in Al Ra'i discussed the outcome of the Casablanca economic conference, describing it as successful politically but not economically. The writer said that the conference succeeded in installing Israel as an active player in Middle Eastern affairs but failed economically because the ambitious projects discussed at the meeting and advocated by Israel would cost \$30 billion and are of the kind that no one seems enthusiastic about or willing to finance. The writer said that the Casablanca meeting also failed to create a Middle Eastern market because none of the participating governments had taken steps towards establishing such an entity and left the matter to the businessmen. The writer said that Japan, Europe and the Gulf countries, which are the main suppliers of funds, showed reservations about the Middle Eastern projects which were deemed necessary to end poverty and curb unemployment. So one can conclude that the conference has failed to achieve its objective, said the writer adding that Jordan has put through its ideas but the Kingdom did not get a successful response for its economic aspirations as no one has yet declared readiness to finance the Kingdom's ambitious projects.

Human Rights File

Setting an international legal precedent

I SEARCHED in vain through international law text books in search for a precedent to Jordan's 1988 decision to break all legal and administrative relations with the West Bank. I even consulted with some scholars on this subject. The result of all these efforts substantiated my long-standing fears that there is in fact no precedent for the Jordanian step. In this context, the Kingdom seems to have attempted to create "new" international law that has yet to acquire recognition as a most recent landmark in contemporary international jurisprudence. So why did we take the route of breaking legal and administrative relations with the West Bank? Was the intention all along to start treating the West Bank and its people in a way that suggested that Jordan has yielded its sovereignty rights in the West Bank and handed over responsibility for its people to the FLO?

When I first heard of this unique and unprecedented step, I immediately came to the conclusion as a jurist that Jordan's decision actually stopped short of relinquishing sovereignty rights in the West Bank. I had the distinct impression that Jordan never wanted at the outset to burn down all its bridges with the territory or its people. What transpired thereafter, especially in the wake of the Oslo accord, seemed to create a new momentum in the direction of giving more and more legal and political effect to the once rather benign 1988 decision to break legal and administrative relations with the West Bank.

The issue came to a head when Jordan and Israel negotiated their own separate peace deal and agreed, inter alia, that Israel will "respect the present special role of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in Muslim holy shrines in Jerusalem." Article 9 of the peace treaty, which embodied this part of the accord, went on to state that "when negotiations on the permanent status (of Jerusalem, I presume), Israel will give high priority to the Jordanian historic role in these shrines."

I found two problems in the language used for this purpose of safeguarding the Kingdom's role as custodian of the Islamic holy places in East Jerusalem, which in their cumulative effect tend to weaken rather than strengthen its role. Let me take the second point as a starter because it sheds light on the first one. Again I speak as a jurist and not as a politician when I state that Jordan's role with regard to the Islamic holy places in East Jerusalem is more legal and sovereignty related than historic or special as Article 9 appears to convey.

Treaties are legal documents and normally refer to de jure submissions rather than de facto propositions as basis for their formulations. Why Jordan opted to agree to wordings in this vein that are weaker than what it is entitled to is something that I do not fully understand, unless of

course the country did not wish to take seriously enough its 1988 decision not to extend the scope of its resolution to sever legal and administrative relations with the West Bank to these holy places. If Jordan no longer regarded its former ties with the West Bank and its people as stemming from its sovereignty rights that ensued from the 1952 parliamentary decision to unite the East Bank with the West Bank, then the whole picture changes. If I am still right that Jordan never doubted its constitutional relations with the West Bank and its people, then I am afraid the formulation of Article 9 is wrong on this count.

Also wrong is Jordan's acceptance of the language in Article 9 that purports to give Israel the prerogative to give Jordan a priority consideration when the final status of these places are determined. As a matter of constitutional right, Jordan's right stems not from any agreement or concession from Israel. Jordan's rights stand on their own and arise from its sovereignty rights. All Israel needed to agree to is to be mindful of this legal fact and act accordingly when the time comes.

Is all this a human rights subject? Of course it is. The issues dealt with here go to the heart of human rights. Sovereignty rights are fundamental collective human rights. Let there be no doubt about it.

By Waleed Sadi

Democrats stumbled and fought over the hard stuff

By E. J. Dionne Jr.

WASHINGTON — Tuesday's electoral disaster will force the Democrats and President Bill Clinton into a long, contentious and agonising reappraisal of how they got into the fix they are in. Their problems are not simply the result of personal or organisational failures. They concern above all the Democrats' troubles in coming up with a coherent approach to holding their party together and governing.

Many thought that they had such an approach at the end of the 1992 campaign. Mr. Clinton was a compelling nominee because he proposed a synthesis designed to unite a fractious party behind what seemed like a coherent programme.

It was clear to Mr. Clinton that the Democrats would never win without a substantial renovation of the party's approach to such issues as crime, welfare, the family and the structure of government. An angry electorate needed to be reassured that the Democrats shared its values.

But Mr. Clinton linked the Democratic future to one important respect: a cornerstone of his campaign was defence of the living standards of both poor and middle-income voters — especially those whose livelihoods were threatened by technological change and global competition. He understood that the public's economic worries related less to unemployment than to the fears of the employed that their living standards were skidding.

It was a good formula, and more than he is given credit for, Mr. Clinton has stuck to these broad themes. But themes, good for campaigns, are not the same as choices, the stuff of governing. Choices are harder.

The first clue of what was to come emerged during the



1992 primaries. Mr. Clinton's argument with former Senator Paul Tsongas did not fit into the patterns of the bygone Democratic ideological fights. Theirs was a dispute over whether deficit reduction should take priority over everything else. Mr. Tsongas said "yes," Mr. Clinton said a qualified "no."

After the election, Democrats in Congress and in the administration simply had the Clinton Tsongas fight all over again. Mr. Clinton split the difference, but gave deficit reduction a higher priority than the veterans of the campaign battles with Mr. Tsongas wanted. As a result, Mr. Clinton and the Democrats took much grief for raising taxes. But they could neither fully satisfy the anti-de-

ficit constituency nor throw much money at programmes to help the members of what Labour Secretary Robert Reich has called "the anxious class."

Nor was it so easy to fudge the moral issues. It was reasonable — and right — to argue that supporting the two-parent family does not preclude opposing discrimination against gays and lesbians. But such distinctions got lost once the fight over gays in the military was joined.

Similarly, "new" and "old" Democrats could agree on the need to reform both welfare and the health care system. But they fell into fierce fights over the shape of both programmes — and over which should take priority. Democrats agreed in principle that

"political reform" would be a fine achievement. But when it came to establishing new rules on campaign spending and lobbying, the party feuded and feuded — and then it was too late.

President Clinton now has to lead the Democrats towards one more effort to make a go of the new synthesis. It won't be easy. Already, Democratic camps are forming inside and outside the administration.

On the one side are those who focus on the troubles Democrats have had in gaining up enthusiasm to counter anti-Clinton feeling on the right. In this view, the voters who were at the core of Mr. Clinton's 1992 victory were the economically distressed, including a lot of people in the middle

class. Many do not see what the Clinton administration has done for them, given the failure of health care and the relative invisibility of the administration's efforts at job training.

This camp argues that unless the administration moves forcefully to reconnect with these voters, its project is doomed. But Mr. Clinton will face great difficulty in forging these links, since he has little chance of pushing any ambitious programmes through a Congress dominated by Republicans.

The other view traces the difficulties of the first two years to the all-or-nothing approach to health care, which submerged so many potentially popular "centrist" initiatives, including

welfare reform and Vice President Al Gore's "reinventing government" project. This school wants to highlight a bipartisan Clinton eager to cooperate with Republicans on procedural reform and welfare policy.

Then there is the deficit problem. Deficit doves say deficit cutting is a clear political loser and should not be a priority. Deficit hawks say Mr. Clinton has gotten the pain but not the credit because he has not gone far enough to settle the deficit problem.

Mr. Clinton will no doubt sound bipartisan at first, on the theory that no one can lose by running against the foul, divisive mood now abroad in the country. The Great Synthesiser also knows that both parties to this argument have put some essential elements on their respective lists. The "centrists" are clearly right in emphasising Gore-like moves to restore confidence in government political reform and the need for gradualism on health care. Advocates for the "excite the base" approach are, in turn, right that continued restiveness among those not much touched by the recovery is a long-term political problem.

But Mr. Clinton himself will have to figure out how to make his grand synthesis look less synthetic and more principled. In the end, his fight with his most partisan adversaries is over whether it is even worth finding new ways of using government to solve problems, reduce social tensions and improve living standards.

He could do worse than make the case for reformed, active government without apology and without fear. It is failure to make this case effectively that is in large measure responsible for the Republican landslide.

The Washington Post.

Aziz sees new pressure

(Continued from page 12)

expect an immediate lifting of the oil embargo. He said if all went well an easing of sanctions might take place within six months.

Iraq is aware that more hurdles have to be overcome before the crippling sanctions will be eased or lifted and diplomats said the government was determined to work for that goal through diplomatic means and not a military option.

The speaker of the Kuwaiti parliament on Sunday welcomed Iraqi recognition of the embargo but said freeing Kuwait's Gulf war missing was more important.

"Despite the importance of this very step (recognition), as a partial initiative, we still consider that our primary issue... is the release of detained and hostages," Speaker Ahmad Al Saadoun said in a speech.

"The Iraqi regime continues to stall regarding implementing the Security Council resolutions related to the aggression (against Kuwait), choosing those which it thinks would convince the international community to lift the economic embargo," he told a meeting of assembly speakers from Gulf Arab states.

Kuwait says Iraq holds at least 624 people detained during its seven-month occupation in 1990-91. Iraq denies it holds any prisoners.

On Saturday, the Kuwaiti cabinet called Iraq's recognition "a step in the right direction" but insisted on compliance with all U.N. resolutions.

Iraq's first-ever formal recognition of Kuwaiti sovereignty came after a Russian initiative convinced Iraq to recall the buildup of some 64,000 troops on the border with Kuwait last month.

Saudi Arabia said Sunday it supported the Kuwaiti government's position and Bahrain said Iraq's recognition decision was "a positive step."

The five-nation Arab Maghreb Union hailed Iraq's recognition of Kuwait as a "great event" which they hope will help end the sanctions against Baghdad.

Thursday's announcement by Baghdad should "relaunch good neighbourly relations between the two countries on a basis of mutual respect," the group's ministerial council said in a statement distributed through official news agencies after a meeting on Saturday.

The Maghreb union's members are Libya, Algeria, Morocco and Mauritania.

The Sudanese government, which refused to back the U.S.-led coalition which fought Iraq described the Iraqi decision to recognise Kuwait and its borders as defined by the United Nations, as courageous.

Israeli tourists enter Jordan

(Continued from page 12)

journey and was later banned from state radios.

Despite all the friendliness, when the group boarded the bus for Petra, a three-car police escort pulled in behind and at least three soldiers or police were positioned at every intersection along the bus route.

Israelis have visited Jordan before years but only using non-Israeli passports.

Officials said some Jordanians holding foreign passports trickled into Israel on

Sunday. Most were waiting to get visas.

The numbers of Jordanian and Israeli tourists allowed to cross between both countries will be restricted to 550 tourists from each country a day for the first three months.

Travellers will have to rely on travel agencies to obtain visas until embassies open later this month or in early December.

However, third country nationals, businessmen, journalists and other categories of travellers are excluded.

APEC leaders gather

(Continued from page 12)

ly different Indonesian islands.

Mr. Clinton, who landed with his wife Hillary after a one-day state visit to Philippines, wants to lend support to ambitious plans for an Asian-Pacific free trade area by 2020.

APEC ministers endorsed the free trade vision, but left the details to their leaders, who will meet in nearby Bogor.

Indonesian officials said most APEC leaders agreed on the need for a timetable to move the region to free trade.

APEC accounts for half the globe's population, nearly half of world trade and

fully half of world economic output, giving its deliberations potentially huge significance.

Members used the summit opportunity to thrash out trade problems between themselves in rounds of bilateral talks.

The United States and China failed to bury their differences during three hours of talks on Sunday over Beijing's goal of entry into the world trading group, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Japanese and U.S. trade officials also met again, striking no agreements but carefully keeping the tone hopeful for a peaceful end to disputes down the road.

LETTERS

Ties within informal framework

To the Editor:

I WAS sadly disturbed by Dr. Jihad Bargouthi's reaction (contained in a letter published by the Jordan Times on Nov. 13, 1994) to a statement I had made to your newspaper a couple of days earlier.

Being fully aware of the agreements reached by Dr. Bargouthi's Amman Surgical Hospital and the King Hussein Medical Centre with the Mayo Clinic, nowhere in my statement did I say that our just-inaugurated Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery sought such agreements. What I said effectively was that when those agreements, under which telecommunication links for training and consultation purposes are established, the Arab Centre will consider to be one of the Jordanian hospitals participating in these links through the King Hussein Medical Centre. I have had close relations with the Mayo Clinic for the surgery divisions, represented by Dr. Gordon Danielson, and with the chief of the Paediatric Cardiology Department, Dr. Douglas Mair. I have personally referred many of those two gentlemen.

And based on this, I find it only logical to say, as I had indeed told your reporter, that I will continue to have good relations with, and seek the advice, when the need arises, outside any telecommunication links that may be established in the future with Jordanian institutions. I do hesitate to bring into the open disagreements among fellow Jordanian doctors, but at the same time I could not ignore the need to set the record straight.

(Dr.) Daoud Hanania,
Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery,
Amman.

King Juan Carlos says Kingdom's democratic march 'admirable model'

FOLLOWING IS the full text of the speech given by King Juan Carlos of Spain to a joint session of the Upper and Lower House of Parliament Sunday.

Your Majesty,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

IT IS a great honour and a deep satisfaction for me to address the representatives of the Jordanian nation and people during the course of my state visit to your country. I wish to avail myself of this opportunity to convey to you a message of solidarity and fraternity from the Spanish people, linked by so many historic and present-day ties to Jordan.

We are conscious of our shared history, which not only has left an Arab cultural heritage of enormous significance in Spanish history, but has also contributed to defining our national identity. This is a heritage that brings our people together and facilitates understanding and friendship between them.

But let us now look towards the present, and above all, towards the future of the relations between our two countries and their position within the international community.

I shall start by mentioning, with satisfaction, the excellent state of our bilateral relations — free of problems or clouds politically and institutionally, and full of convergencies and shared viewpoints with regard to the future.

It is Spain's wish and, I think, also that of Jordan, to ensure that these ties become rapidly broadened, intensified and deepened in all their economic and commercial, cultural and scientific aspects, and all their potentials developed on the new horizon of peace, stability and cooperation that is now emerging in this region of the world. The brave decision by your people, and the leadership and drive of its highest institutions, have contributed very significantly towards

making possible this new horizon, that will provide a suitable framework for our intensified dialogue.

In your recent initiative to strengthen your democratic institutions you have provided an admirable model for co-existence and understanding that has not gone unnoticed in the international community and is the cornerstone of the credit and trust enjoyed by the Jordanian nation in the world today.

And you have done that in difficult circumstances — including difficult economic circumstances — and at a very complex international juncture, in which not only is an attempt being made to lay the foundations for a new regional reality, but also when the international community itself is undergoing accelerated mutations, filled with uncertainty as well as hope.

The recent experience of my own country, with its difficulties and challenges, in which, however, consensus and solidarity finally predominated regarding fundamental issues, enables us to understand Jordan's present current situation more easily.

In these Houses, which the Queen and I are honoured to visit today, I know that there are different opinions concerning important matters in your daily course of work. But I also know that with regard to the most basic issues, there is a strong resolve to strengthen together a national reality and a society proud of its origins, that is prepared not to turn its back on the necessary changes and adjustments required at the present time and, above all, determined that tolerance and solidarity — popular virtues of which you are the direct depositaries — will prevail.

The framework of democracy, with recognised political parties, electoral pluralism, respect for human rights, free and responsible media, and all the institutional attributes that make up a state of law,



His Majesty King Hussein and Spain's King Juan Carlos at a guard of honour outside Parliament shortly before the Spanish monarch addressed the legislature on Sunday (Petra photo)

are today in Jordan the image of an unquestionable modernisation of the state — just as is your effort to ensure that this concept of democracy will spread increasingly to all its citizens in a daily exercise that consolidates the areas of freedom, develops within the different orders of national life, and becomes rooted in people's consciences.

With a view to this noble task, which is always unfinished in any society, the experience and hopes of your people are your main asset; and you also have the personal determination of His Majesty King Hussein, who has become the driving force behind this democratic reconstruction and has retained the backing of his people on becoming the guarantor of their profound aspirations.

There is plenty of room today in your country for different communities and

different religious faiths — all of which are represented in these Houses. This national and social solidarity is one of your greatest treasures, and is the guarantee for a future of prosperity and concord.

This same spirit of reconciliation and understanding has also presided over the valiant personal efforts of the King for many years, in favour of a true regional peace, acceptable to current and future generations, and in which the just aspirations and claims of the parties to the conflict will find satisfaction.

This not only applies to international legality, but also to the future, in that it will allow peoples constrained by difficult geographical and historical circumstances, who are nevertheless forced to co-exist in the same regional area, to jointly enjoy the political and economic benefits arising

from a just and courageous peace.

The peace process, born at the Madrid conference three years ago, amidst uncertainties and dangers, but fortified by the political will of the parties and the backing of the international community, is today a promising and solid reality, that is gradually becoming rooted in reconciliation and the will for understanding and cooperation of the peoples.

The day will soon be here when the institutionalisation of peace that is now getting under way will be understood and appreciated by all, and when peace — not only that of international legality, but also, and even more, the peace of people's consciences, will open wide the doors to cooperation whose results will be the common heritage of all the peoples of this region of the world — a

heritage of peace and prosperity that history has long owed them, and which will definitively lay to rest the old hatreds and relegate suffering to oblivion.

Your country has followed in the right spirit the wise advice of the Sacred Koran that says: "If your enemy inclines towards peace, you do so as well, and trust in God." Old resentments will thus be left behind and the saying, also from the Koran, to the effect that he from whom enmity separates you will become a fervent friend will be fulfilled.

Jordan, specifically, has worked effectively in this direction and, after agreeing on an operational working agenda last year on all the points subject to negotiation, it took a fundamental step last July 25, with the solemn signing of the Washington Declaration and the historic meet-

ing between King Hussein and Prime Minister Rabin.

The signature of the peace agreements in (Araba) on Oct. 26 marked the end of a path trodden in a very few months — a path almost unimaginable after the decades-long confrontation. I would like at this point, to reiterate my congratulations to His Majesty the King, to the Parliament and to the whole Jordanian nation on this admirable and decisive success.

The peace process has a global dimension, in which the different negotiating parties and their very complex problems are inevitably more or less interrelated.

The Kingdom of Jordan, like all the parties to the process and the international community as a whole, follows with the greatest attention the plurality of the issues raised, that must be resolved with fair and constructive formulas while bearing in mind the legitimate concerns of all the parties.

After initially facilitating the coming together of the Palestinian negotiators in the Jordanian delegation, Jordan played a special role in encouraging the process begun in Madrid.

This solidarity and cooperation between Jordanians and Palestinians will make it possible to provide an adequate response to the many challenges that are still pending along the way to a definitive peace in the region.

Peace is not an end in itself. It is essential that it have a human component, and that this people which has suffered so many privations and sacrifices have a right to demand tangible dividends from this peace which, in order to be a true one, must likewise be imbued with a spirit of solidarity.

Along this eventual path that we have travelled since the Madrid conference, the support and solidarity of the international community has been an essential ingredient.

Spain, together with the

other members of the European Union, has endeavoured to help, without seeking prominence — both in the progressive efforts made in the multilateral talks, and in stimulating the parties' will to negotiate.

This region, like the rest of the Mediterranean, is a priority for Spain, and we have, in different venues and on different occasions, encouraged concrete initiatives aimed at strengthening security and cooperation in an era of understanding and mutually beneficial exchanges — a task which will obviously be enormously facilitated when peace in the Middle East is achieved and consolidated.

The covering proposals of Jordanian and Spanish diplomacy to try to meet the different challenges of this region integrally are inspired by this philosophy. Spain will take on the presidency of the European Union during the second half of 1995. You can count on our initiatives aimed at the renewal by Europe of its political and economic commitments to Jordan. In this connection we trust that during this period it will be possible to hold a conference of European Union and Mediterranean countries, including Jordan.

I should like, on concluding, to solemnly express my country's commitment to this House not only to continue to help to achieve a just and lasting peace, which will be treasured and cultivated with devotion by coming generations, but also to participate in a spirit of solidarity in the tasks of reconstruction and development that are beginning in this region and in this country. Your challenge is our challenge, and your peace is our peace.

Let us be capable of using the time well, and of transforming into deeds the opportunity now being offered to us. If we carry out this task proudly and well, we shall be on the right path.

Thank you very much.

Roundtable on peace

(Continued from page 1)

disparity which encompassed the need for equal distribution of aid.

In relation to issues addressed in the group sessions Rights and Humanity Executive Chairperson Julie Hausermann, Research Director of the Institute for Applied Social Science (FAFO), Jon Hansen-Bauer of Norway and former Australian Prime Minister and head of Care Australia Malcolm Fraser spoke of the work of their organisations.

Ms. Hausermann said that the London-based Rights and Humanity organisation operated at two levels, global and national. The organisation stresses equity and non-discrimination and aims to create an environment for the promotion of human rights.

It concentrates on multi-faith and multi-culture cooperation which is underlined by its patrons: Crown Prince Hassan, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and His Holiness the Dalai Lama of Tibet among others, she said.

The organisation promotes the actual implementation of rights. Cultural rights call for participation of all members of the community, providing a means of identity particularly for minority groups, she added.

Health rights, the right to live a healthy life, as well as access to health provision, is another of the group's concern along with human rights and development. Ms. Hausermann told the Jordan Times.

The group session on human and legal rights, of which Ms. Hausermann was the rapporteur recommended that international covenants on women's rights, rights of children, political and social rights be integrated into national law, which should then provide adequate mechanisms for their enforcement, she said.

Mr. Hansen-Bauer of FAFO, an independent Norwegian NGO, said that population, demography and refugees were fundamental issues relevant to the development of Jordan and the Middle East region.

Half of the work performed by FAFO is spread internationally he said. FAFO recently conducted surveys in the West Bank and

Gaza Strip assessing the living conditions of the Palestinian people.

Such surveys, said Mr. Hausmann-Bauer, are relevant to policy makers. In this context he said that his group had agreed upon the necessity to clarify all issues related to the peace process to the Palestinian people to enable them to choose between settlement or return to their homeland.

The Palestinian Question is yet to be considered within the peace process and until this is done clarification of this situation cannot be made, he added.

He also stipulated that NGOs were responsible for addressing the urgent needs of Palestinians and disadvantaged sectors of society because new government policies will be unable to provide immediate solutions.

Solutions will not be found in Gaza, he said, where infrastructure is worn down, unemployment and overcrowding prevail and socio-economic development is urgently required.

He suggested that a regular labour market outside the Gaza Strip would provide some relief, while agricultural improvements and more light industry within the territory would create the necessary jobs. However, nothing can be achieved without public work reconstruction, he said.

Mr. Fraser of Australia spoke of the need of NGOs to initiate carefully devised programmes to create quick benefits for the people.

Mr. Fraser said that those who suffered during the Arab-Israeli conflict, particularly the Palestinians, would prove the most difficult sector of society to convince of the benefits of peace.

Social development projects under the sponsorship of Care are currently in progress in the south of the Kingdom.

Country Director of Care International Jordan (which operates under Care, Australia) Joanna Hall explained that the projects in the south involved extension of agricultural services and improving farmers' skills.

In the next few weeks Ms. Hall said that Care would launch a project in Zarqa in close cooperation with the Ministry of Social Development, with which the organisation has worked since Nov. 1993. The Zarqa

project will look at youth in the context of the peace process, attempting to generate awareness of employment opportunities, credit and loans and social activities in light of the changes wrought by peace.

Ms. Hall said that NGOs were urgently required to address the situation of the region's youth from a historical point of view.

The participants stressed that their role as members of NGOs was to recommend action, influence policy-makers and assist in the transition to peace.

Spanish royal couple

(Continued from page 1)

tion Jordan can benefit from tourism, agriculture, trade, transport and many other areas under the era of peace, King Juan Carlos said.

He said the European Union was willing to back the Jordanian public and private sectors.

A spokesman for the Spanish business community made a brief address. Spanish businessmen appreciate Jordan's efforts and are willing to launch cooperation with Jordanian businesses, especially in technological and industrial fields, he said.

Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf addressed the meeting, outlining Jordan's economic prospects. Economic growth this year was expected at six per cent, she said.

Tourism Minister Mohammad Adwan told the meeting that Jordan and Israel had already reached agreement on joint programmes for marketing tourism to the region in North America and Europe.

He said other projects were planned to develop the tourist sites at the Dead Sea, Petra, Aqaba and Wadi Rum.

Prince Hassan announced that he was presenting King Juan Carlos with a most recent study conducted by A.I. Al Bayt University on "Christianity in the Arab World."

Egyptian, Israeli animals towards normalisation

CAIRO (AFP) — Animals participating in an exchange programme between Egyptian and Israeli zoos are making great strides towards helping to normalise bilateral relations.

Yoram Belezoveski, president of the Jerusalem zoological park, and his Egyptian counterpart Mohammad Habashi, signed an agreement to exchange animals, despite sharp criticism in Egyptian opposition newspapers.

The agreement "stipulates the exchange of animals and experts between the two zoos and environmental protection programmes. The Cairo zoo will also translate into Arabic the Israeli zoo's English signs," labelling the animals, Mr. Habashi told AFP.

The Cairo zoo, established at the end of the 19th century over 40 hectares, is one of the oldest zoos in Africa. The Jerusalem zoo opened two years ago to replace the city's former zoo.

Mr. Habashi handed over "the key and the coat of arms of the Cairo zoo to Israeli officials, who gave two ostriches to the Egyptian zoo in return."

Jerusalem zoo director Shai Doron brought the two animals to Cairo last Wednesday, following the Sept. 28 agreement.

Mr. Habashi agreed to visit Israel despite opposition in Egypt to all such visits, because he is "convinced that we have to adapt ourselves" to Arab-Israeli peace agreements.

Acknowledging the role Spain has played in the peace process, Mr. Lawzi said: "Peace in the Middle East has its significant and positive ramifications for all the European peoples as well as for the peace and security of the world."

Mr. Lawzi said the peace treaty Jordan and Israel signed on Oct. 26 is an outstanding Arab, regional and international achievement.

"(The peace treaty) constitutes a major contribution in establishing the basis for a comprehensive peace in the region, based on international legitimacy and United Nations resolutions," said Mr. Lawzi.

Mr. Habashi's trip to Israel was not greatly supported in Egypt.

"The Israelis have at last found a means to normalise their relations with Egypt," said Saadeddine Wabba, president of the Artists Syndicate in the semi-official newspaper Al-Ahram.

"The Israeli and Egyptian donkeys and monkeys will warmly greet this normalisation. Even the lions will agree because there are no psychological barriers or bad memories."

"Habashi will certainly find a lot of doves which the Israelis will set free to show their desire for peace, but without taking any concrete measures being taken."

Mr. Wabba is adamantly opposed to any normalisation with Israel despite Egypt's 15-year-old peace treaty with Israel. He has refused any Israeli participation in the Cairo International Film Festival, over which he presides.

Spain pledges continued support

(Continued from page 1)

"struggle to achieve just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the region."

Noting that the late King Abdullah was the first Arab leader to visit Madrid and that Spain was the first European country King Hussein visited after assuming his constitutional powers, Mr. Lawzi said Jordan has always sought to strengthen its ties with Spain.

Mr. Lawzi also pointed to the cooperation that exists between the Jordanian and Spanish parliaments, saying the two institutions share the belief in Democracy.

Lawzi stresses commitment to just, comprehensive peace

FOLLOWING IS the full text of the speech given by Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi on the occasion of the visit of King Juan Carlos to Parliament Sunday.

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate

Your Majesty King Hussein, Your Majesty King Juan Carlos the First,

On behalf of my colleagues, the members of both Houses of Parliament, I am honoured to welcome Your Majesty and Jordan's great and esteemed guest, His Majesty the King of Spain.

Your Majesty's visit to the Jordanian Parliament is a living embodiment of the historic friendly ties which happily exist between Spain and Jordan. This visit acquires additional significance by the fact that Your Majesty is the first King and European Head of State to visit our Parliament and to address, through it, the Jordanian people.

This event will remain a source of great pride for us as Parliamentarians, and will provide us with an additional incentive to continue to cooperate closely with Your Majesty's great and friendly country, and to develop our mutual strong and special relations in every walk of life.

Spain and Jordan, and the Spanish and Jordanian people, are joined by ties of history, heritage, and common principles. This enables our two peoples to set a shining example of how two peoples, continents apart, can jointly explore the horizons of future cooperation to achieve their common objectives, hopes and aspirations for a prosperous life, entrenched in the principles of justice, peace, democracy and human rights, for their mutual welfare, as well as the good of mankind.

In the midst of this century, His Majesty the late King Abdullah, the found-

ing father of Jordan, was the first Arab leader to visit Spain and to establish with her the foundations of genuine friendship on the basis of common principles.

When His Majesty King Hussein, Your Majesty's brother, ascended to the Throne and assumed the responsibility of leading his people and serving the cause of his nation as well as the cause of liberty and peace in the region, Spain was the first European country he visited. Ever since, His Majesty has continuously sought to elevate the level of friendship and cooperation between our two countries to ever greater heights. Both Your Majesties share numerous noble attributes, foremost among them is your joint and firm belief in your two peoples and their role in determining their present and future, as well as in their ability and competence to exercise their rights with confidence, enlightenment and faith. This has made every citizen in both countries a full partner in reaping the fruits of education and hard work. Every citizen has become a participant in building a society able to cope with the challenges of modern life; a society in which the banner of freedom and human rights is raised; a society settled on justice, law and order.

Three years have passed since the convening of the Madrid Peace Conference for the establishment of peace in the Middle East. The world will continue to remember Spain's role in hosting that conference and ensuring its success. We will also always remember, with gratitude, appreciation and high esteem, Spain's principled and continuous support for Jordan, the Arab states and the Palestinian people during the various phases of our struggle to achieve a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in our region.

Peace in the Middle East has its significant and positive ramifications for all the European peoples as well as for the peace and security of the world. It is a

blessed omen that Your Majesty's visit to the Jordanian Parliament comes only a few days after it ratified the peace treaty between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the State of Israel. This peace treaty is an outstanding Arab, regional and international achievement. It constitutes a major contribution in establishing the basis for a comprehensive peace in the region, based on international legitimacy and United Nations resolutions.

The peace treaty is also a genuine response to the hopes and aspirations of the people in our area and their essential need for a just and comprehensive peace which will enable them to enter a new era of regional cooperation, security, development, progress and prosperity.

We are greatly proud of the continuous cooperation between the Spanish and Jordanian Parliaments and the exchange of visits and expertise between them; both Houses are effective members in the Arab-European dialogue. This is based on our common belief in democracy and the role of the representatives of the people in both countries in the service of our common principles and objectives. Jordan's Parliament is now preparing to participate in the 93rd I.P.U. Conference to be held in Madrid, your eternal beautiful capital, in March 1995.

The Jordanian Parliament extends to you its profound gratitude and appreciation and expresses to Your Majesty its highest esteem for your participation in the celebrations of the Jordanian people for peace and for the birthday of His Majesty, our beloved King. His Majesty devoted his entire life to ensure that Jordan remains a symbol of peace and a meeting place for all civilisations. Jordan, with its history, holy sites and renaissance, is one of the cradles of monotheistic religions and an attraction to all believers in the Almighty God, regardless of their origin, colour or creed.

Egyptian economy grows faster than expected

CAIRO (R) — The Egyptian economy more than met its growth target in fiscal 1993/4, growing 3.6 per cent against an adjusted 2.5 per cent in the previous year, the central bank said in a report to parliament.

The previous projection by the planning ministry was that gross domestic product (GDP) would rise 3.3 per cent in 1993/4 and 4.5 per cent in the year which started on July 1.

The central bank, in a report for parliament made available to Reuters Sunday, attributed the growth to good performance by the construction, manufacturing, electricity, petroleum and agricultural and service sectors. It gave no breakdown.

The economic growth was in spite of a sharp decline in exports of goods and services, especially oil and tourism, two of the country's main sources of foreign currency.

Many tourists have been deterred by a series of attacks by Muslim militants but the bank said visitors will be brought in \$1.78 billion, compared with \$2.38 billion the previous year.

Exports of crude and pro-

ducts fell in value to \$1.50 billion from \$1.80 billion, mainly because the average price of crude sank to \$12 a barrel from \$15 in 1992/3, it said.

Remittances from Egyptians abroad helped to keep the balance of payments in surplus, rising to \$6.16 billion from \$5.94 in the previous year.

The current account was \$2.86 billion in surplus, compared with \$4.55 billion in 1992/3, it said.

The report made policy recommendations for the current year but did not make projections of economic performance.

On the crucial question of interest rates and the exchange rate of the Egyptian pound, it said that one of the aims of monetary policy must be to help Egyptian products and services compete on foreign markets.

Linked to that is the need for the average return on the Egyptian pound and the exchange rate to be at appropriate levels, it added.

High interest rates have been supporting the Egyptian pound against the dollar for the past three years despite

relatively high inflation in Egypt.

The International Monetary Fund thinks the strong pound is frustrating the government's export drive but the government is reluctant to let the exchange rate slip.

Ministers have argued that exports are starting to pick up regardless but the central bank report gave little indication that this was a general trend in 1993/4.

Non-oil exports in the year were worth \$1.57 billion, against \$1.61 billion in the previous year. Exports of metals, chemicals and processed foods fell, while those of rice, cotton, clothing and carpets rose, it said.

The bank recommended a continuation of the government's economic programme, including expansion of the stock exchange, diversification in monetary instruments and reducing the bureaucratic obstacle to exporting.

The year 1993/4 was the second in succession which GDP growth outpaced the rate of population growth, variously estimated at between 2.1 and 2.3 per cent a year.

Egypt-Israel trade doubles

CAIRO (AFP) — Trade in non-oil products doubled between Israel and Egypt in the first three-quarters of 1994 compared to the same period last year, the Egyptian economy ministry said Sunday.

"Trade rose to \$30 million for the first three-quarters of 1994, including \$21 million in Egyptian exports," said Hoda Naguib, trade official at the ministry.

During the same period of 1993 trade stood at \$13 million, with \$8 million worth of Egyptian exports.

Ms. Naguib said the figures did not include Egyptian oil exports. Egypt is the main supplier of crude oil to Israel. Egypt's other principal exports in Israel are agricultural and food products, while it imports machinery, chemicals and plastics from the Jewish state, she said.

In 1993 Egypt-Israel trade including oil fell to \$270 million from \$334 million in 1992. Cairo blamed the fall on a reduction in crude oil prices on international markets.

Suez Canal faces threat of peace

ISMAILIYA, Egypt (AFP) — The Suez Canal, as it turns 125 years old this week, is under threat from the peace process which is carving a new Middle East and opening up alternative routes.

"Peace brings with it competition. I hope that economic problems will not replace political problems," the chairman of the Suez Canal authority, Mohammad Ezzat Adel, told AFP.

Since the Palestine-Israeli autonomy accord signed in 1993 and the Israel-Jordan peace treaty in October, the Middle East is rife with projects for new bridges, highways and oil pipelines.

They could cost the canal dearly as the Arab-Israeli conflict since the creation of the Jewish state in 1948 draws to a close and opens new perspectives.

Already the revenue of the Suez Canal, so vital to Egypt's economy, has fallen by between three and four per cent this year compared to the \$1.98 billion of 1993, mainly because of an oil transportation crisis, said Mr. Adel.

But this could be the prelude to other problems for the canal, which was opened Nov. 17, 1869 after French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte's expedition to Egypt.

Several pipelines from the oil-rich Gulf to the Mediterranean — closed since 1948 because of various crises, including the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait — could reopen and others be built.

Despite a 35 per cent reduction in rates for shipping its natural gas through the canal, Qatar is negotiating with Israel for the construction of a pipeline.

Israel's project to build a canal between the Dead Sea and the Red Sea is also of concern to Egypt, although Mr. Adel was confident it would be "unsuitable for navigation."

The Suez pipeline to the Mediterranean, Sumed, owned half by Egypt and the rest by Gulf states, is also competition for the canal. Opened in 1977, its capacity has risen from 80 million tonnes per year to 120 million tonnes.

Mr. Adel, however, insisted the Suez Canal was "in a very good position to put up a fight" since the other projects in competition are weighed down by high costs.

A planned pipeline crossing the Red Sea from Yanbu in Saudi Arabia to join up with Sumed would cost \$2 billion.

"We will face the competition and if needed, we will agree to any reduction necessary," said Mr. Adel, whose company has 14,500 employees for whom it provides schools and leisure centres.

Rates have already been modified. "Over long distances, such as from the Gulf to the United States, we make up to 70 or 80 per cent discounts," the chairman said, adding that bad weather in the Cape of Good Hope also at times played in the canal's favour.

The canal has witnessed several conflicts, such as its 1956-1957 closure after nationalisation by former President Gamal Abdul Nasser, when France and Britain intervened, and then again until 1975 after the 1967

Arab-Israeli war. It was enlarged to retain its customers and has been deepened to 17 metres.

"We can now attract ships of 160,000 to 170,000 tonnes fully loaded and are starting to draw other large ships which normally use the Cape," the chairman added.

Supertankers cross empty, the canal authority laying on two smaller ships to carry the load during the crossing, which takes around 15 hours.

Almost 80 ships can go through the 195-kilometre canal each day, in convoys. Throughout its history, the Red Sea-Mediterranean passage has been free of attacks. But the authority is cautious and the canal is kept under Egyptian military surveillance.

"The canal is a prime target for anyone wanting to harm Egypt," said a Western military expert, asking not to be identified. "A single one would ruin its reputation."

"Ships coming from suspect countries... or flying flags of convenience are searched and inspected by divers," he said.

Vietnam looking for steep aid increase to fund new reforms

HANOI (AFP) — Vietnam is hoping for pledges of \$10 billion in aid until the turn of the century to fund a new round of reforms that could clear away the debris of central planning and broaden the market economy.

At a meeting in Paris this week, Hanoi is aiming to secure more than the \$1.86 billion pledged last year at the first gathering of the "consultative group," State Planning Committee Vice Chairman Vo Hong Phuc told a new conference.

"Our need for overseas development aid (ODA) from now until the year 2000 will be significant — at least \$10 billion," Mr. Phuc said.

Major donors from 18 countries, including Japan, and multilateral group, such as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, are expected to boost aid at the Nov. 15-16 meeting.

Vietnam received the World Bank's seal of approval on its economic reforms last month when it was granted a further \$150 million structural adjustment programme to help its transition towards a market economy.

In another boost ahead of the Paris meeting, a high level delegation from Japan — the largest donor to Vietnam, accounting for more than \$500 million pledged last year — agreed last month to

grant additional soft loans despite problems in aid disbursement.

Donors including the European Union members, Japan, Australia and the Scandinavian countries are to take part in the Paris meeting, but it was not clear whether the United States would attend in a formal capacity.

The United States, which lifted a ban on economic links with Vietnam in February, was an observer at last year's meeting, but World Bank representative Bradley Babson said it was hoped it would now join as a full participant.

Last year, Vietnam said it was hoping for \$7 billion to help reach its target of doubling per capita gross domestic product to \$400 by 2000, but now the aid request has risen by nearly 50 per cent.

Mr. Phuc said Vietnam was to ask for more money to build up the transport, communications and electricity systems in Vietnam, which has some of the lowest levels of infrastructure development in Asia.

The government was also making concerted efforts to develop its capacity to handle aid and to reform the bureaucracy, a top priority according to Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet.

Mr. Babson said the rate at which aid was being absorbed

was "good," adding that \$100 million of \$475 million pledged by the bank for balance of payments assistance and agricultural credit had been spent.

"Vietnam is still in the build-up phase," Mr. Babson said. Disbursements would speed up over the next few years as Vietnam resolved some early difficulties with bidding for projects, which had attracted overwhelming interest from local and overseas companies, he added.

But others, including the Japanese and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), have called for a firmer shake-up to remove bureaucratic hindrances to aid and reforms.

A UNDP report to be presented to the Paris meeting calls for technical assistance to help narrow a "serious lag" between the formulation of policies and subsequent implementation by government departments.

Aid to Vietnam now needed to be focussed on helping a new wave of institutional reforms, consolidating changes so far that have freed prices and introduced the basic elements of a market economy.

Meanwhile, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has announced a \$335 million loan to Vietnam for its economic reform programme over the next three years.

Iran to pay off foreign debts by year 2000

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran will pay off all its current foreign debts by 2000, when the country's second five-year development plan ends, a report drawn up by a special committee of the Iranian parliament has said.

Committee chairman Mohammad Bagher Nobakht told parliament the priority was to repay the debts accumulated by a sharp rise in imports in 1990-1992.

Iran faces a short- and medium-term debt of around \$30 billion, according to Western experts. Nearly half of the debt consists of arrears which have already been rescheduled to be paid back within five years.

Mr. Nobakht, quoted by the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), said the government had been authorised to borrow up to \$25 billion during the plan to finance oil, power and steel projects.

The government's projected revenue from oil exports was estimated in the report at \$73 billion and from other exports at \$27 billion over the next five years. The oil revenue is estimated to be half of the country's total earnings during the period.

However, Western experts deemed both figures to be optimistic, given the present situation in the oil market. Iran's production capacity and the level of non-oil exports.

The country's oil revenue for 1994-1995 is not expected to exceed \$13 billion, based on officially-published pro-

duction.

But Mr. Nobakht said the report anticipated an average annual increase of 8.3 per cent on current oil revenue over the next five years.

Non-oil exports have recorded a marked upturn in recent years, with revenue expected to reach \$4 billion in 1994-1995, according to official figures. But Western experts say a large portion of this revenue is not repatriated.

Iran planned to limit imports to \$91 billion during the second five-year plan. Mr. Nobakht said, without giving more details.

A cash crisis has forced Tehran to curb imports in the past two years, but the drop has caused major difficulties in the industrial sector, which relies heavily on foreign raw materials and spare parts.

Mr. Nobakht also said the government had projected a 12.5 per cent annual increase in money supply during the next five years. Current inflation is officially put at 30 per cent, but Western experts say it is really double that figure.

Kuwait banks move on bad debt

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaiti banks plan to take about 1,500 debtors to court to try to recover about \$671 million in bad loans following their failure to arrange repayment terms by an Oct. 31 deadline, bankers have said.

Bankers say that by Nov. 15 they should be in a position to send the attorney-general a list of the names of 1,500 debtors owing about 200 million dinars (\$671 million) who failed to make the deadline to declare repayment options.

"The banks have to cross-check and double check some of the names of the debtors into a single list to their lists, and then submit it to the authorities," one said.

About 3,350 debtors failed to meet a March 31 deadline to agree a repayment schedule under a plan to settle a total 6.3 billion dinars (\$21 billion) in bad loans that have enfeebled the banking system for a decade.

Parliament extended the deadline to Oct. 31 to accommodate those who had not registered, but some 1,500 failed to make the new

settlement date.

The total debt owed by a total of 9,546 corporate and individual borrowers stems partly from the 1982 crash of an informal bourse known as Souq Al Manakh, and partly from commercial losses aggravated by Iraq's 1990-91 occupation.

Failure to meet the deadline means a debtor's entire debt immediately falls due and the state may petition the courts to declare a debtor bankrupt.

Most of the 1,500 owe small amounts of between 2,000 and 3,000 dinars (\$6,700 and \$10,300). Most of their problems stem from the fact that their companies are in the process of liquidation or no longer exist.

The rest have hefty debts

stemming largely from the Manakh disaster have neither the cash flow nor assets to repay.

The government in 1992 bought the banks' portfolios of dubious loans with government bonds under a law aimed at solving a problem that has cast a pall over the economy since 1982.

The commercial banks now have the job of recovering the money on behalf of the government.

The successful operation of the programme would give a psychological boost to a banking system that was once one of the Gulf's most buoyant but which is now stagnant because of low oil prices and worries about Iraq.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY NOVEMBER 14, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Wright Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Avoid any fights today and stick to good steady substance as you show that you are a down to earth, steady individual who knows how to take a joke and laugh at yourself if the case, need be.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Start your activities early in such a manner that you get the good will of one who is in a position of authority, then don't do anything to upset good results.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A well organized and practical man from different background to yourself has some excellent suggestions for you but don't jump into them too hastily.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Think about what you can do to get a family resource and accounts on a more solid structure and it won't be necessary to make big expenditures.

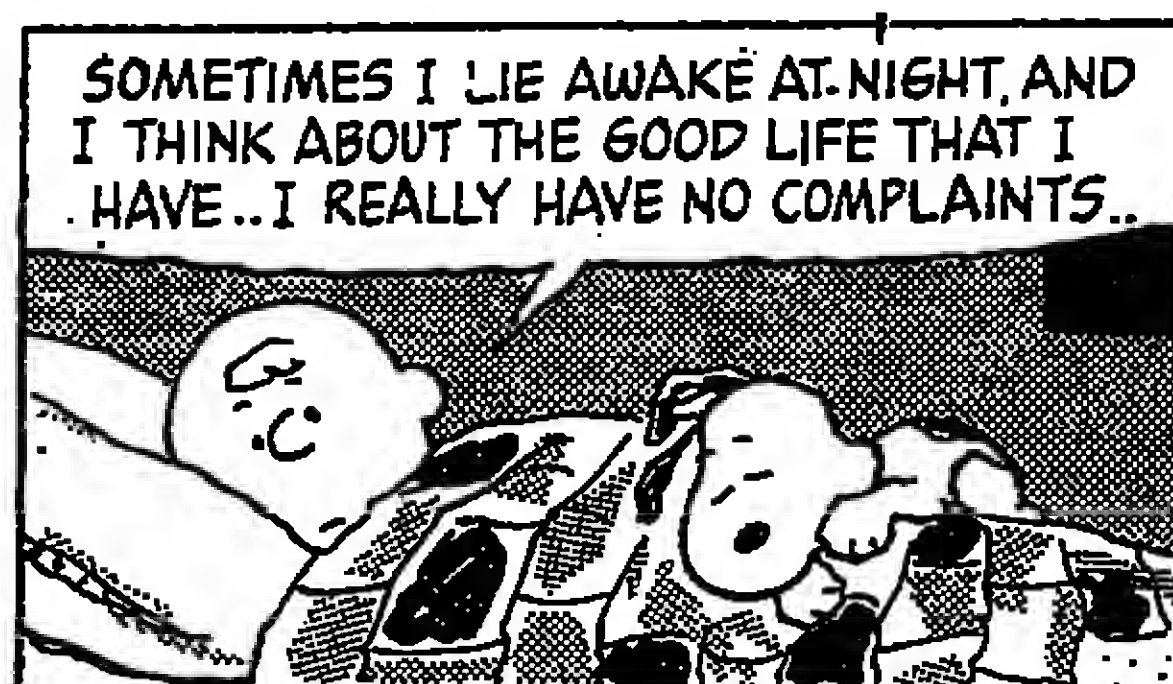
SCORPIO CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Communications with a business friend can aid you in a more satisfactory joint course of action but don't go overboard in showing appreciation.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Being more exact and particular about money matters can make it easier for you to build up more assets and to have a greater abundance for later on.

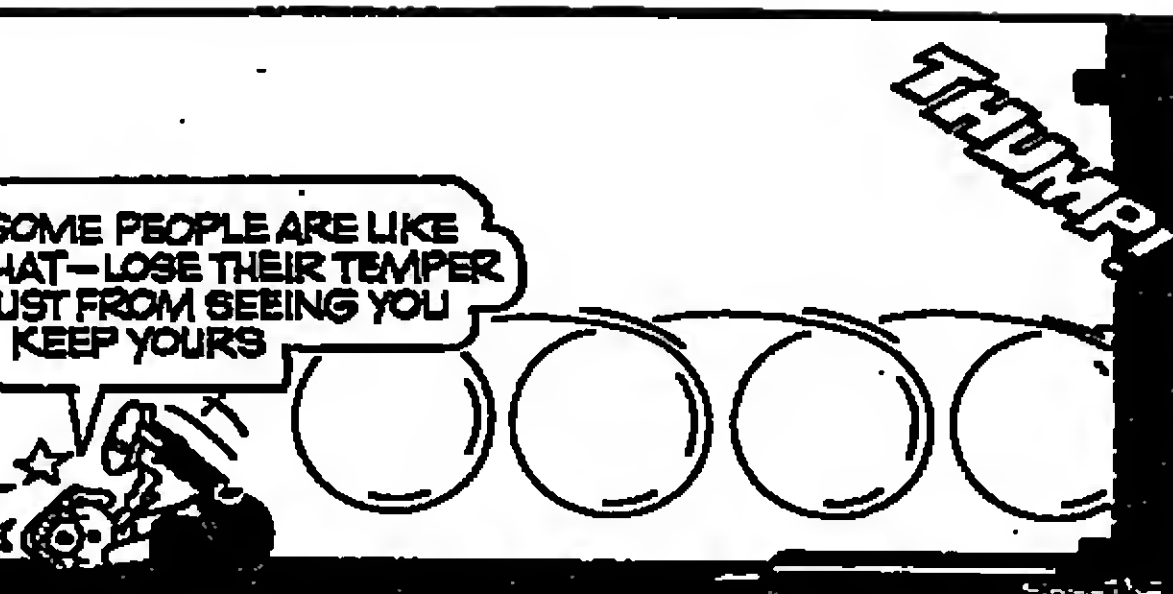
VIRGO: (August 22 to September 21) Take some time out to arrange Birthstone of November: Topaz-Tiger's Eye

Birthstone of November: Topaz-Tiger's Eye

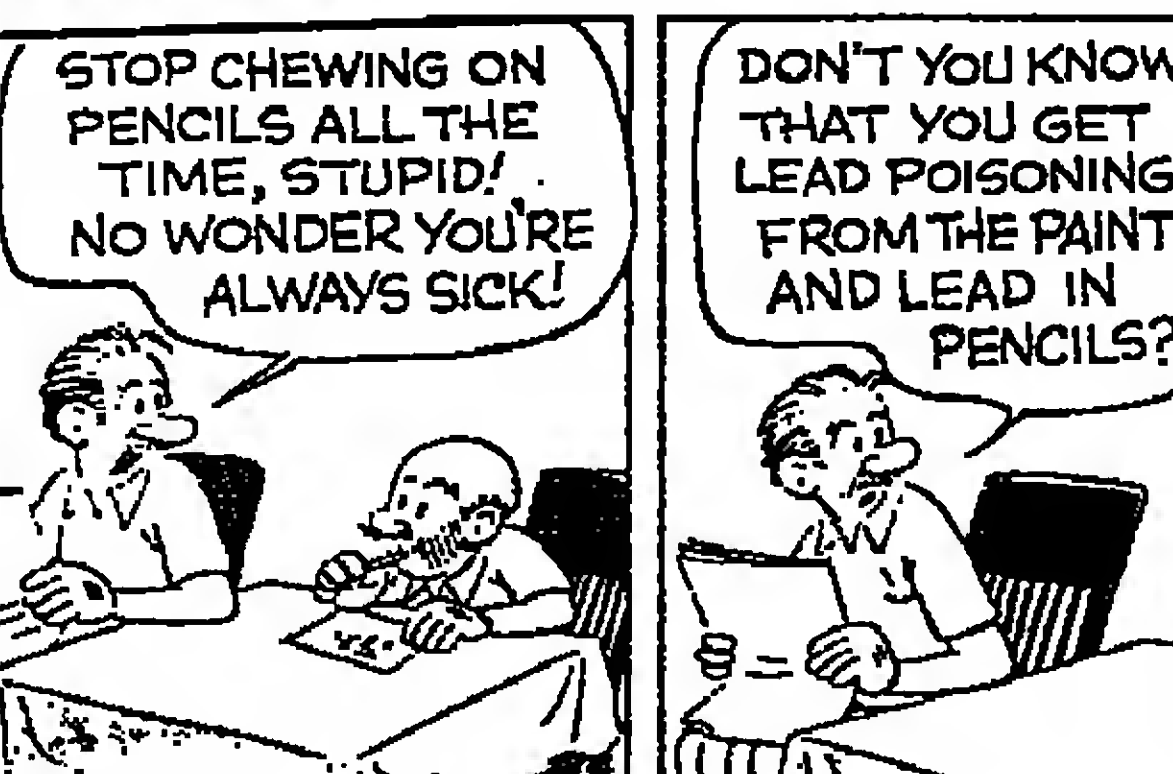
Peanuts



Andy Capp



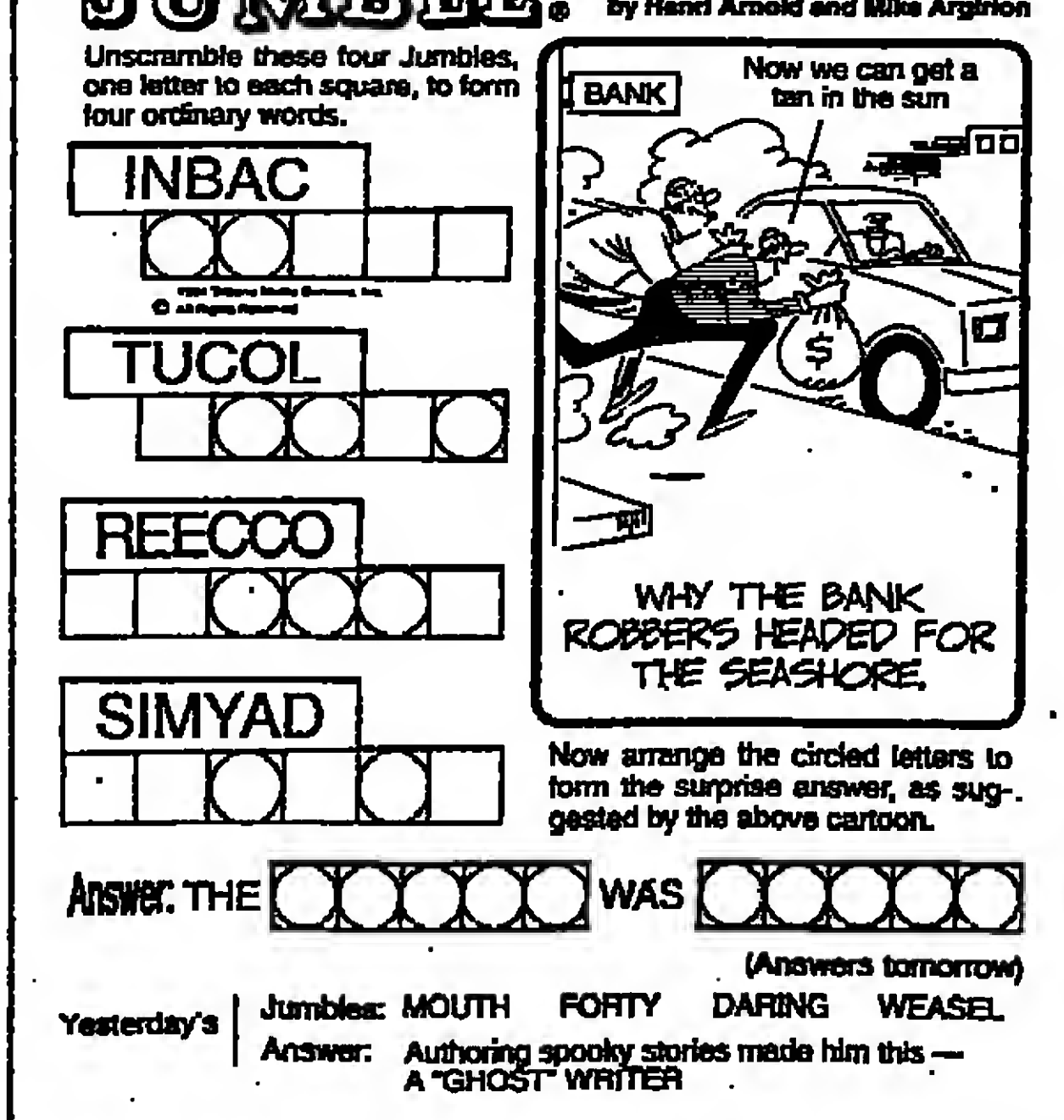
Mutt'n' Jeff



THE BETTER HALF, By Glasbergen



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME



THE Daily Crossword by Richard Thomas



Athletic world mourns Olympic legend Rudolph

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (Agencies) — Wilma Rudolph, who overcame pneumonia, scarlet fever and polio to become the first American woman to win three gold medals in track and field at one Olympic games, died Saturday of brain cancer. She was 54.

Family members were present when she died at her home Saturday morning, according to family friend Dwight Lewis.

Rudolph became ill in July 1994 during a speaking engagement at Atlanta, and doctors detected cancer shortly thereafter.

Jackie Joyner-Kersey and others in the U.S. athletics world reacted with sadness to the news that the triple Olympic gold medalist had died.

"She was someone I could always talk to," said Joyner-Kersey, who won the heptathlon gold at the 1988 and 1992 Olympics, as well as the long jump gold in 1988.

"She was very inspirational. She was always in my corner. If I had a problem, I could pick up the phone and call her at home. It was like talking to your sister or your mother, someone you knew for a lifetime."

"I always thought of her as being the greatest, and not only athletically. You respected her as a woman."

Rudolph had battled illness since childhood, and was told she would never walk, but she triumphantly proved that our diagnosis was wrong, and in 1960 won the 100m, 200m and 4x100m relay gold medals at the Rome Games.

First, she won the 100-metre gold medal in a wind-aided 11.0 seconds, after having tied the world record of 11.3 in the semifinals. Then, she won the 200 metres in 24.0, after having set an Olympic record of 23.2 in her opening heat. Finally, she combined with Tennessee state teammates Martha



Picture dated 1966 of U.S. athlete Wilma Rudolph (right) at the Olympic Games in Rome. Rudolph, who triumphed over polio, pneumonia, scarlet fever to become the first U.S. woman to win three athletic gold medals at one Olympics, died of cancer Nov. 12 (AFP)

Hudson, Lucinda Williams and Barbara Jones to win the 400-metre relay in 44.5, after having set a world record of 44.4 in the semifinals.

All this by a woman who was told she would not walk — no less run — when she was a child.

Rudolph was born June 23, 1940, at Clarksville, Tenn., the 20th of 22 children of Blanche and Eddie Rudolph.

At 4, Rudolph was stricken with double pneumonia, followed immediately by scarlet fever.

Later, Rudolph was taken

to Meharry Medical College in Nashville, where doctors determined she had contracted a mild form of polio. Her family took turns massaging Rudolph's shrunk legs three or four times daily. In time, her physical condition improved and she walked, but not without a cumbersome brace on her left leg.

At 9, the brace was replaced by a high-top shoe.

Although it gave her more flexibility, she couldn't run, jump or skip like other youngsters. More than any-

thing she wanted to run.

Finally, when Rudolph was 11, the orthopedic shoe was removed.

At the 1955 National AAU Championships, in her first major meet, the 15-year-old Rudolph won every heat and final and earned a place on the 1956 U.S. Olympic team. At the 1956 Melbourne Games, the teen-ager won a bronze medal in the 400-metre relay.

After the games, she returned to high school and later enrolled at Tennessee State. She was coached by

Temple, who became the women's track coach for the 1960 Olympics.

At Rome, there was concern that Rudolph would not be able to compete in her opening heat in the 100. The day before the race she had stepped in a hole and twisted her right ankle in a practice field near Olympic stadium.

After winning her three golds, Rudolph set several world records in the sprints, before retiring in 1962.

She was president of the Wilma Rudolph Foundation, a nonprofit organization devoted to teaching youngsters they could overcome obstacles.

"All of us recognize that this is obviously a tremendous loss," said U.S. Olympic Committee President Leroy Walker. "Wilma was very much involved in a number of Olympic programmes. It's a tragic loss."

Bob Kersee, husband and coach of Jackie Joyner-Kersey, said Rudolph was an inspiration to his wife and to other black women athletes he had coached.

"I hope Jackie and her generation will be able to influence young athletes, black and white, the way Wilma Rudolph did," he said.

Praise came for Rudolph from far afield.

Italy's Livio Berruti, who became the first non-American to win the men's 200m at the same Rome Games in 1960, said: "I lose a part of me with Wilma's death."

"She had a special way of living sport, with her laughing eyes. It was a far cry from the usual tension, interests and calculations."

"She represented true sport and the joys of life...she often crushed her rivals, yet with a grace and politeness that were without equal."

Rudolph is survived by two sons, two daughters, six sisters and two brothers.

Martina farewell will dominate women's tennis season finale

NEW YORK (AFP) — Never mind the other 15 players at this week's Virginia Slims Championships, this year the finale of the women's tennis season will be a going-away party for Martina Navratilova.

"It is all going to be so sentimental, it could be overwhelming," said Navratilova, who will retire after the Championships. "I really want to do well, to go out playing the way I know I can play. It would be the ultimate to go out with a win."

"But I'm also ready for it to be over with. There is so much going on inside me and around me that it's hard to deal with. It's going to be tough to say goodbye."

Navratilova, whose 167 career singles titles include 18 Grand Slams, is seeded sixth here. She plays her opening match Tuesday against Argentina's Gabriela Sabatini.

Her old rival Chris Evert and mentor Billy Jean King will be among those in attendance when a banner bearing Navratilova's name is raised to the rafters of Madison Square Garden, an honor usually reserved for stars of the New York Knicks basketball team.

A five-minute video summing up her career will be shown on giant screens around the auditorium. Organisers originally planned to show it before her match, but Navratilova wouldn't let them.

She was afraid that after watching it she'd be crying too hard to play.

Navratilova's parents will be at courtside after making the trip from their home near Prague.

They have urged their 38-year-old daughter to reconsider her retirement plans, but Navratilova says she is looking forward to new challenges.

On the day after the Championships she will get down to business as the new president

of the Women's Tennis Association.

On the same day an announcement is scheduled on her participation in a Legends Tour with Evert and other veterans.

First however, she has to survive her send-off. She will be given a Harley-Davidson motorcycle as a going-away present as well as an 11-foot (three-meter-) tall tennis ball signed by thousands of New York fans.

Madison Square Garden has been the scene of some of Navratilova's greatest successes.

She has won the women's championships here, sponsored variously by Virginia Slims and Avon, sometimes played in March and sometimes in November, a total of seven times. She has reached the final four other times, and won the doubles 11 times.

As the years have worn on, she has become a favourite of the vocal New York crowd.

"Playing in the Garden is a lot different then playing in the other indoor venues because the Garden is obviously very special, but it is also very big and open," said Navratilova's coach Craig Kardon. "And the crowd is always a factor."

"It will be very interesting. I think, if she could put all her emotions aside as to this maybe being her last match or last week."

Fam Shriver, who played doubles with Navratilova for eight years, said it was impossible to predict how the emotion would affect her old teammate.

"I hope she doesn't get all tied up," Shriver said. "If she's going to go down, I'd like to see her go down swinging."

Sabatini, who won the Championships in 1988 and the US Open in 1990, has not won a tournament since 1992.

Navratilova, who dropped out of the top five for the first time since 1975 when she fell

to sixth in the world rankings last week, has won just one tournament this year, the Paris Indoors in February.

In July she was a surprise finalist at Wimbledon, where she lost to Conchita Martinez of Spain. And she played superbly in losing the Oakland, California, final to Arantxa Sanchez Vicario on November 6.

"I had not played tennis like that in a long time," Navratilova said. "It's nice to be able to play great tennis. I just wish I could finish it off. When I play tennis like this, I know I didn't retire too late."

Nor does she think she is retiring too soon. A look at 14-year-old Venus Williams, who made her professional debut in Oakland, was enough to convince Navratilova of that.

"I wish I had her legs," Navratilova said after watching Williams play. "Getting old really stinks. I miss winning easily. Everything is three sets these days. It's infuriating."

Sanchez Vicario will be seeded second at the Championships. In accordance with her world ranking.

But she has dominated the game this year, winning the French Open and the U.S. Open to close in on world number one Steffi Graf.

Graf herself has been fighting injuries and has not played since she lost to Sanchez Vicario at Flushing Meadows.

She pulled out of last week's Virginia Slims of Philadelphia with a sore back and could yet miss the Championships. If she does play, she will meet Brenda Schultz of the Netherlands in the first round.

The other seeded players in the field are Martinez (3), Jana Novotna of Czech Republic (4), Mary Pierce of France (5), Lindsay Davenport of the United States (7), and Kimiko Date of Japan (8).

Papin helps Munich snap winless streak

BONN (R) — French striker Jean-Pierre Papin, whose season has been disrupted by a knee injury, returned to action with his first goal of the season for champions Bayern Munich in the Ger-

man first division Saturday. Soon after coming on as a substitute in the 62nd minute, the former European footballer-of-the-year pounced to score Bayern's opening goal in a 2-0 victory

over Schalke. Brazilian Jorginho struck in the 82nd minute to give Bayern two vital points after Schalke were reduced to 10 men when former Bayern player Olaf Thon was sent off

in the 63rd minute.

The result ended a poor turn of form for the record Bundesliga champions who moved up from ninth to sixth place.

Frenchman wins UAE Desert Challenge

DUBAI (AP) — Frenchman Jean-Louis Schlesser, driving a one-man buggy, completed a decisive victory in the four-day UAE Marlboro Desert Challenge Saturday in the final round of the FIA World Cup for cross country rallies.

On the final leg of this event 12 months ago, Schlesser had made a spectacular exit, overturning his famous buggy among the rolling desert dunes, but this time the Frenchman enjoyed a pleasure cruise to the finish with an 11-minute cushion.

Saudi Arabia's Abdullah Bakhshab defended his production class title thanks to Irish co-driver Bobby Willis who guided him to second position overall in his Range Rover.

Bakhshab climbed above Frenchman Thierry Lavergne who had held second place overnight in his T2 Nissan Patrol.

Top German woman driver Jutta Kleinschmidt took fourth place ahead of teammate Sven Quant.

After previous leader Frenchman Bruno Saby's third leg disaster which eventually led to him finishing in 11th position in the new prototype Mitsubishi Pajero, Schlesser, winner of the recent Pharaoh's Rally in Egypt, was always in control.

Bakhshab, who clinched his second consecutive Middle East Group N crown last month, said: "The only problem we had during the last stage was when we landed heavily, resulting in us bursting the tyre and damaging the wheel."



Slovakian midfielder Vladimír Kúdela (left) Gheorghe Hagi during their European Championships qualifier (AFP photo)

Romania win in European qualifier

BUCHAREST (R) — Defender Daniel Prodan scored 10 minutes from time with his first international goal to give Romania a 3-2 win over Slovakia in their European Championship Group A Qualifier Saturday.

Prodan found the net with a powerful shot from six metres after Slovak goalkeeper Ladislav Molnar had blocked a drive from midfielder Gheorghe Popescu of Tottenham

Hotspur. Popescu put the World Cup quarter-finalists ahead in the seventh minute and captain Gheorghe Hagi made it 2-0 one minute after the break.

Peter Dubovsky of Real Madrid in the 56th minute and defender Miroslav Chytil 12 minutes from time put Slovakia back on level terms.

Gonzalez retains WBC, IBF lightfly titles

MEXICO CITY (R) — Mexico's Humberto "Chiquita" Gonzalez retained his World Boxing Council and International Boxing Federation light flyweight titles Saturday and then announced he was thinking about retiring.

Two judges made Gonzalez, 28, the winner over America's Michael Carbajal 117-114 and 116-113 while the third scored the 12-round fight a draw 114-114.

The Mexican, who has only been beaten twice, once by Carbajal, surprised reporters later by announcing that it may have been his last fight.

"I would like to announce a very important thing," he said. "I'm thinking about retiring. I want to talk to my

family. I'd like to go out a champion."

It was only the second time Carbajal has been defeated in 34 fights. Both times, Gonzalez has been the spoiler.

Carbajal was fighting to win back the titles that were taken from him by Gonzalez in February in a split decision.

He himself had won those titles from Gonzalez in a classic fight in Las Vegas in March 1993, stopping him in the seventh round.

Terry Norris stripped of WBC title

A shattered Terry Norris of the United States was stripped of his World Boxing Council superweight title Saturday after fouling Luis Santana of the Dominican Republic in an ugly contest that was as much theatre as it was boxing.

The fight, and its sudden end two minutes and two seconds into the fifth round,

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Israel gets 'tougher' in questioning Palestinians

GAZA (Agencies) — Palestinian police, pressed by Israel to crack down on militants, said on Sunday they had rounded up about 150 Gazans since a suicide bomber killed three Israeli soldiers in the Gaza Strip on Friday.

Israeli political sources said the Jewish state would also allow secret police to get tougher during interrogations of Palestinian suspects.

The moves follow the killing of more than 20 people by suicide bombers in a month.

Israel holds the ruling Palestinian National Authority (PNA) responsible for curbing the attacks. In the Friday killings, the Islamic Jihad group sent a bomber on a bicycle to blow up an Israeli checkpoint near the Jewish settlement of Netzarim.

"We have arrested about 150 so far, and we are still conducting arrests," said the Gaza police commander, Brigadier-General Ghazi Al Jabali.

"There are many wanted men and we are continuing to find them."

Islamic Jihad had charged that Palestinian police secretly buried the remains of the suicide bomber.

"At a wake for Hisham Ismail Hamad, the group accused the PNA of 'declaring a dirty war against Islam.'"

The Palestinian 'authority' has no right to 'place the remains of Hamed' in black bags. This is a crime, the group said in a statement read out over a microphone.

Hamad's brother, Marwan, said that his family had not been notified of the burial, and only found out when a witness told them about it.

A witness at Gaza City's main cemetery said security forces gave a gravedigger three black plastic bags to bury earlier Saturday. They told him the bags contained the remains of Hamad's body, Maher Saleh said.

Witnesses said Palestinian police in Gaza forced open doors in a wide search for Islamic Jihad leaders, many of whom have gone into hiding.

Among the detainees in the Gaza sweep was a brother of Islamic Jihad leader Abdullah Al Shami, who had vowed retaliation for the killing of an Islamic Jihad activist in Gaza earlier this month.

Israel has declined to comment on charges it was behind the car bombing that killed Hani Abed, a journalist. The Friday bomber left a note saying he was avenging Abed's death.

The Netzarim attack intensified strains on the Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace deal and on ties between the PNA and Islamic groups opposed to peace with Israel.

Israeli political sources, confirming an Israeli radio report, said limits on physical means used by Shin Bet secret service interrogators would be relaxed under a three-month trial measure approved by a ministerial committee.

Human rights groups accuse the Shin Bet of torturing Palestinian suspects to extract confessions. The sources said the new decision would give interrogators more 'flexibility' in dealing with suspects behind attacks.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin meanwhile urged

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat to disarm Islamic fundamentalist groups on the Gaza Strip.

"The Jihad and Hamas must be disarmed," Israel Radio quoted Mr. Rabin as telling the weekly cabinet meeting.

"But Yasser Arafat is a long way from doing all he can against these two organisations."

He added that the peace process with the Palestinians had to go on, but warned Israel could put a brake on autonomy negotiations if the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas and Islamic Jihad pursued their attacks.

"There is nothing to oblige us to quicken the pace of negotiations on the transfer of power to the Palestinians on the West Bank," Mr. Rabin reportedly said.

Agriculture Minister Yaakov Tzur called on Israel to dismantle the settlement of Netzarim which is near the site of Friday's bombing and move residents into the main block of settlement on the Gaza Strip called Gush Katif.

Fewer than 30 families live in Netzarim which is isolated between major Palestinian population centres and requires special protection.

The three officers who were blown up were guarding a crossroads which gives access to Netzarim.

Jewish settler leaders, blaming Mr. Rabin for the bloodshed, called on Sunday for senior army officers to resign their commands rather than continue to carry out the government's peace moves.

Implementation of the peace deal on Palestinian self-rule has continued.



IN PARLIAMENT: His Majesty King Hussein and Spain's King Juan Carlos I in Parliament on Sunday. The Spanish monarch addressed the legislature, becoming the second

foreign leader to do so after U.S. President Bill Clinton who addressed the lawmakers on Oct. 26 (photo by Youssef Alian)

Israeli tourists visit Jordan

JORDAN RIVER CROSSING (Agencies) — Israeli tourists crossed into Jordan for the first time on Sunday following the peace treaty that ended a 46-year state of war.

Dozens of tourists, separated for years by hatred and suspicion, arrived at the two border posts linking their countries to enjoy the first visible fruits of peace.

Jordanian immigration officers stamped the Israeli passports — a taboo until the treaty was signed on Oct. 26.

King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin exchanged copies of the ratified treaty on Thursday.

"I am happy because it is the peace we have been longing for a long time," said Rubin Ben Dori, president of the company that brought the first 48 Israeli tourists over the northern Jordan River Crossing, just south of the Sea of Galilee.

"I have been waiting for this day for 50 years...it took much too long," he told Reuters.

Their bus was bedecked with Israeli and Jordanian flags and a banner reading "On the Road to Peace."

An hour later, a group of 37 Israeli tourists entered from the southern port linking the Red Sea cities of Aqaba in Jordan and Eilat in Israel. It was opened in August but only to third country nationals.

"Welcome to Jordan. Now we have peace and can visit each other like good neighbors. It's a great moment," said Abdullah Jaber, a Jordanian tour guide who hopped onto the bus at the southern crossing.

"It's like a dream come true," said Yoram Eden, an accounting professor from Herzliya.

Historic significance seemed to overtake bureaucratic procedures at the terminal.

Colleagues gathered round to watch one Jordanian border policeman stamp the Israeli passport. "It's the first time, you know," said the policeman with a big smile.

A currency clerk, asked if he could change Israeli

shekels for Jordanian dinars, answered, "not yet, but soon."

Israeli passports, even Israeli visa stamps in foreign passports, were banned in the past. After the non-belligerency treaty was signed in July, Jordan opened its borders only to Israelis carrying foreign passports.

"I came to see the first Israelis. I want to tell them that we are very excited about peace," said Mohammad Kalifa, a mechanical engineer in his 50s who came especially from Amman to deliver his peace message.

The focus of the two-day tour is the rose-red city of Petra, the ancient capital of the Nabataeans which dates back more than 2,000 years.

For Israelis, Petra was a symbol of the Jewish state's isolation from the rest of the region. Dozens of Israeli youths over the years have tried to sneak across the desert border to Petra as a test of courage. A Hebrew song "The Red Rock" glorified the trip of one officer's secret

(Continued on page 6)

Teachers get extra allowance

AMMAN (J.T.) — In implementation of His Majesty King Hussein's directives, the Ministry of Education will grant teachers with a university degree an extra allowance of 30 per cent of their salaries and those with lower degrees 20 per cent, Education Minister Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh said Sunday.

The allowances, which is to be granted at the start of 1995, will be in addition to the 10 per cent allowances all teachers currently receive on their salaries, said the minister during a tour in the Amman area to open several new schools.

King Hussein, in a letter to Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali last month, instructed the government to improve the living conditions of the teachers through granting them professional allowances and augmenting by JD 20 million a fund which finances housing projects for teachers.

The opening of a number of new schools in the Amman area is part of the ministry's celebrations of King Hussein's Birthday, Mr. Rawabdeh said.

He said a special ministry committee had prepared a study on teachers' allowances and it had been referred to the concerned authorities for implementation.

The school opened Sunday have laboratories, libraries, computer sets and other modern facilities, according to the minister.

Fifteen per cent of the government schools are still housed in rented premises and the ministry is planning to build its own premises and dispose of the rented buildings.

It also wants to end the two-shift school system which still exists in some areas due to shortages in buildings and the growing number of students each year, said Mr. Rawabdeh.

Senator cheats death to meet Clinton

MANILA (R) — A prominent Filipino politician cheated death in a helicopter crash to have a reunion Sunday with a former classmate — U.S. President Bill Clinton. "I'm glad you are all right," Mr. Clinton told Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as they warmly clasped hands during arrival honours for Mr. Clinton at the Malacanang Presidential Palace in Manila. "We read about you in the papers," he said. Mrs. Macapagal-Arroyo, a member of the Philippine Senate and daughter of a former Philippine president, was shaken but unhurt when the helicopter she was in crashed landed at Manila Airport Saturday. Two people were slightly injured. "Of course I had to be well enough to get up and meet my former classmate," she told Mr. Clinton. Mr. Clinton, towering above the diminutive Mrs. Macapagal-Arroyo, seemed delighted to see her and held her hands for long moments before proceeding down the reception line. The two were classmates at Washington's Georgetown University from 1964 to 1966. Ironically, Mrs. Macapagal is at the forefront of a campaign for the removal of toxic waste left behind when U.S. military forces pulled out of the Philippines in 1992. Mr. Clinton and President Fidel Ramos were expected to discuss the waste issue at their talks later Sunday.

Woman who rejected Charles furious about book

LONDON (R) — Amanda Knatchbull, the woman who turned down a marriage proposal from Britain's Prince Charles, is furious about a book which revealed details of their relationship. The Sunday Express newspaper said the granddaughter of Earl Mountbatten of Burma was shocked when their romance was recounted in Jonathan Dimbleby's biography of the prince. "I hate anything being written about me. I never ever wanted a single thing said about me publicly," the newspaper quotes her as saying. "I live down here (southern England) with my family, and that's all I want out of my life. I don't enjoy this sort of unwanted attention." Mr. Dimbleby's book said the heir-to-the-throne noticed that Ms. Knatchbull had "grown into a very good-looking girl" when the prince visited her parents in the Bahamas in 1973. When Prince Charles proposed Mr. Dimbleby said her refusal was "considered, gentle and immediate" but the newspaper claimed she laughed when the prince popped the question. "What a funny idea," she is quoted as saying. Ms. Knatchbull, 37, is married to property dealer Charles Eliot, and has two young sons. Mr. Dimbleby's controversial book which caused a sensation when it was published last month also revealed details of his enduring relationship with Camilla Parker-Bowles and his loveless marriage to his estranged wife princess Diana.

Mother Teresa 'forgives' producer of documentary

NEW DELHI (AP) — Mother Teresa says she has forgiven a British television producer for a documentary that portrays her as egotistical and publicity-hungry. "No matter who says what, you should accept it with a smile and do your own work," the 95-year-old revered for her work with Calcutta's poor and dying, was quoted as saying in the Pioneer newspaper. She received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 and has created a global network of shelters for the poor from New York City to her native Albania. The documentary Hell's Angel, made by producer Tariq Ali and journalist Christopher Hitchens and shown Tuesday on Britain's Channel 4, accuses her of mismanaging donations and seeking out publicity and the company of the rich and powerful. In her first public reaction, Mother Teresa told the Pioneer she has forgiven "the producer."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Palestinians ambush Israeli patrol

MARJAYOUN (R) — Palestinian guerrillas firing anti-tank missiles and mortar bombs ambushed an Israeli patrol inside the Jewish state's occupation zone in South Lebanon on Sunday, security sources said. They said an Israeli Merkava tank received a direct hit but no soldiers were hurt in the attack near the village of Aishiyeh just inside the 15-kilometre deep buffer zone. The Damascus-based Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) claimed responsibility for the ambush, saying two military vehicles were destroyed and several Israeli soldiers killed or wounded.

Swedes vote for EU membership

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — Slightly over 52.6 per cent of Swedes voted in favour of European Union (EU) membership Sunday, 46.9 per cent voted against and 0.9 per cent cast blank ballots, according to complete official figures from Swedish national television. Voter turnout was registered at 82.4 per cent, the highest rate yet recorded in a Swedish referendum. A total of 1.8 million of Sweden's 6.5 million eligible voters cast their ballots in advance voting. Sweden is now scheduled to join the EU as of Jan. 1, 1995.

Austrian president visits Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — Austrian President Thomas Klestil visited Israel's Holocaust memorial on Sunday and said more and more Austrians were willing to "face the truth" and accept responsibility for their country's role in the Nazi Holocaust. Mr. Klestil referred to denial of Austrians' association with war crimes in a speech prepared for delivery at a dinner with Israeli President Ezer Weizman. Austrians, he said, were "more and more prepared to face the truth about the terrible events of the past and our ability to call guilt by its real name, and no longer hide our grief behind a veil of self-justification." Austrian officials long maintained that the country was a victim of the Nazi Germans, who invaded Austria in 1938, and many Austrians skirted the issue of accountability.

8 Iraqis sentenced to death for murder, theft

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Eight people found guilty of murder and theft were sentenced to death by a special court in Iraq, the Interior Ministry said Sunday. The eight to be hanged were involved in three crimes which resulted in four deaths, one wounding and the theft of two cars, according to the ministry statement. It did not say when the trial took place. In a separate trial a woman was sentenced to life imprisonment by the same court for murder.

Senior Indian officials visit Israel

TEL AVIV (AFP) — India's Parliamentary Affairs Minister V.C. Shukla and Parliamentary Speaker Shivraj Patil, the highest-ranking officials from New Delhi to visit Israel, arrived Sunday for talks, the foreign ministry said. They are scheduled to meet President Ezer Weizman, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres before returning home on Thursday. Israel and India opened diplomatic relations in January 1992.

U.N. to compensate 23,000 Egyptians

CAIRO (AFP) — The U.N. compensation fund is to pay \$57.5 million in damages before the end of the year to Egyptians affected by Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Egyptian officials said Sunday. The U.N. will pay \$2,500 each to 23,000 Egyptian workers who had to flee Kuwait or Iraq after the invasion, said Jilan Allam, deputy minister of international political affairs. Mr. Allam said the United Nations fund did not have enough money to pay the total amount owing to Egyptian workers, which Cairo estimates at \$61.334 million.

Iraq abolishes planning ministry

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq's Revolutionary Command Council has abolished the planning ministry, Baghdad newspapers reported on Sunday. The decision was taken to reorganize planning bodies and increase their efficiency, they said. President Saddam Hussein had sacked Planning Minister Samal Majed Faraj.

GCC to expand Peninsula Shield

RIYADH (AP) — Saudi Defence Minister Prince Sultan said Sunday that all six member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) had agreed to bolster a regional rapid-deployment force known as Peninsula Shield.

Sources who spoke on condition they not be named said the force would be increased to 25,000 by the end of 1996. Currently it is said to number only 6,000. In addition, air and naval forces from member states will be participating in joint manoeuvres.

"The force will remain and will be strengthened," said the Saudi minister to reporters at the conclusion of a two-day closed-door meeting of defence ministers of the six GCC member states.

The defence ministers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates were preparing recommendations for the annual summit conference of their heads of state.

The summit will be convened as of Dec. 18 in Bahrain.

Peninsula Shield is a small collective rapid deployment force that the six countries created in the first years after forming their GCC alliance in 1981 on the way to a common market.

The force is based in the Saudi northeastern base of Hafir Al Batin and was to have been gradually upped in numbers especially after its failure to play any deterrent role when Iraqi forces invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

The plans have remained stymied as the alliance depended on the Western allies led by the United States for deterrence against further threats. The U.S., Britain and France rushed land, air and sea forces to the Gulf in a recent crisis last month, which abated when Iraq pulled back some 70,000 troops it had mobilised close to the Kuwait borders.

GCC Secretary-General Fahim Al Qassbi had referred to plans to increase Peninsula Shield to 25,000 men after proposals by Oman to create a 100,000-strong common army were shrugged off by others.

Qatar has also projected a hesitant view on the force, withdrawing its own units at a time two years ago when a border dispute with Saudi Arabia flared momentarily.

But in reply to a question, the Saudi defence minister denied that there were any differences among members of the alliance over strengthening the force.

Aziz sees new pressure but no early lifting of sanctions

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Baghdad's recognition of Kuwait will give extra weight to calls for the lifting of U.N. sanctions, Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz said Sunday, before leaving Jordan for U.N. headquarters in New York.

But he implicitly ruled out any immediate lifting of the embargo.

In a statement quoted by the official Iraqi News Agency (INA), Mr. Aziz said the recognition of Kuwait Thursday "will have a positive impact and bring nearer the date when the blockade is lifted," referring to the U.N. embargo imposed after Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

"It will give new force to the Iraqi demand" for an end to the embargo, he said.

Mr. Aziz is due to attend a U.N. Security Council session Monday and hand over the documents officially recognising Kuwait.

Iraqis travelling abroad have to pass through Jordan

due to the air embargo included in the oil and trade sanctions.

Mr. Aziz said Washington and London would be "embarrassed" at the U.N. meeting, because "the majority of Security Council members are calling for the blockade to be lifted as soon as possible."

Iraq says it has fulfilled all the U.N. conditions for a lifting of sanctions, since its formal recognition of Kuwait's sovereignty and borders.

But the United States and Britain say Baghdad still has to free Kuwaiti prisoners of war, return property seized in Kuwait and complete the dismantling of its weapons programmes.

Diplomats at the U.N. on Sunday said Iraq's recognition of Kuwait may make little difference as the United States and Britain were lobbying against an immediate easing of the restrictions (see page 2).

After the announcement of

Kuwait's recognition, long queues of Iraqis with dollars formed at state banks and government-licensed exchange houses to convert the U.S. currency into Iraqi dinars. The dinar firmed on the black market, trading on Sunday at 520 dinars per dollar, from 540 last week.

But Mr. Aziz's statement reflected the more realistic stance adopted by the Iraqi government in telling its suffering people not to expect too much too soon.

"They (Iraqis) are on the right track. They have solved the most intractable part in U.N. resolutions," a Baghdad-based diplomat said.

"But they now fear the U.S. and Britain will insist on other demands which Baghdad views as meddling in its internal affairs," the diplomat said.

Iraq's Parliament Speaker Saadi Mehdi Saleh on Saturday told reporters he did not

APEC leaders gather amid protests

JAKARTA (Agencies) — U.S. President Bill Clinton and other Asia-Pacific leaders flew into Indonesia on Sunday for a summit to create the world's largest free trade zone, but East Timorese unrest threatened to steal the limelight.

As heads of government from the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum — already responsible for half the world's commerce — focused on trade in the 21st century, protestors rioted in East Timor and students from the restive province made a defiant stand in the U.S. embassy in Jakarta.

The unrest brought political and human rights concerns, often thrust to the side by the region's governments as their young economies boom, onto centre stage.

Japan, usually reticent about pressing other Asian countries on human rights, said Indonesia's record on the issue would be taken into account in Tokyo's next aid package.

"Japan will consider aid on the basis of our... guideline

on checking arms exports, human rights, promotion of democracy and environment," a Japanese official quoted Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama as telling Indonesian President Suharto on Sunday.

"It was chaotic," said East Timor military spokesman Major Laedan Simbolon, describing the unrest in Dili, the province's capital.

"Up to 1,000 youths armed with sticks, iron rods and stones were smashing shops, burning cars and hitting policemen."

He said he did not know what had triggered the trouble.

The Clinton administration already has promised to raise human rights with President Suharto, and the twin confrontations, waged in front of foreign journalists covering the summit, ensured the issue would get a high profile.

Crowds of club-wielding rioters threw rocks at baton-charging police, smashed shop windows and torched vehicles in the streets of Dili. Independent sources said

there were no confirmed reports of deaths or serious injuries.

In Jakarta, 2,500 kilometres west of Timor island, two dozen East Timorese students began their second night camped in the U.S. embassy grounds.

They want to hand Mr. Clinton or U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher a petition demanding independence for their province.

Mr. Christopher expressed sympathy for the students after they sealed the embassy fence Saturday morning, and the embassy said it would not force them out. But on Sunday, barricades were set up to keep journalists away from the students.

Domingo Sarmento, their leader, said: "The U.S. officials want us to move to the Vatican embassy. We rejected this offer. We prefer to die rather than leave the embassy."

The East Timor dispute falls in with a long-running debate between the West and Asia over human rights. Like China, Indonesia maintains

that Western-style rights are not applicable in a vast, ethnically diverse archipelago still struggling to achieve more basic rights like freedom from hunger and disease.

East Timor was a Portuguese colony until 1975. Portugal's abrupt departure triggered a civil war and the Indonesian army intervened and annexed the territory.

Charges of government oppression dimmed in 1991 when troops killed at least 50 unarmed civilians at Adili cemetery.

Independent observers, among them Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans, said Sunday's violence appeared to have a strong ethnic tinge, kindled by a clash between Timorese and Indonesians the previous day in which at least three people died.

One force feeding pro-independence sentiment is Timorese resentment at an influx of traders and job-seekers from other, ethical-

(Continued on page 6)